

Cool but strained at press conference

THE TIMES
Tomorrow
Young scars
The secret and growing world of child prostitution
Old wounds
Arnhem: 40 years on. The men who faced each other relive their battle
Leaking sieve
The watchdog Civil Service. Is this a healthy thing?
Moving story
Simon Barnes talks to Tommy Docherty, the football manager who battles on and off the field
Listening post
A Special Report on world broadcasting

Portfolio
Times Portfolio competition was won outright yesterday by Mr Harry Woolard who lives in Hitchin, Herts. He receives £2,000. Portfolio list, page 22; how to play, information service, back page.

Township rent rises suspended
The mayor of four black South African townships which were swept by riots earlier this month emerged from hiding to say planned rent rises had been suspended. At least 40 people died in the riots, south of Johannesburg. Meanwhile, at least seven black miners have now died in violence at the strike-hit goldfields. Page 6

Hospital court
Colin Richards, a patient, had seven charges, including one of murder, read to him at a bedside hearing convened in hospital at Colchester. Page 3

EEC deadline
The EEC has only three and a half official working days left to settle two key issues - Spanish and Portuguese entry, and Britain's budget rebate. Page 7

Bonn clean-up
West Germany has decided, that all new motor vehicles must be fitted with an anti-pollution device to cut exhaust emissions from January 1, 1989. Page 7

Noele Gordon ill
Noele Gordon, who appeared in TV's *Crossroads*, will be operated on today for stomach cancer. She was admitted to hospital on Sunday.

Liverpool win
Liverpool, the defending champions, defeated Lech Poznan 1-0 in their first round, first leg European Cup football match in Poland. Page 24

Leader page 13
Letters: On the Post Office, from Mr A. Tiffin, and others; herbage exports, from Lord Cottesloe; death certification, from Dr J K Wales
Leading articles: Liberal conference; Chad; Police and picket costs
Features pages 7 and 8
Disarmament and the Liberals; uneasy calm in Jamaica; Ken Livingstone's election
Special Reports: In the ten years since its inception, the Henley Centre has become probably the biggest independent, non-profit-making forecasting centre in Europe. Pages 15-18
Books, pages 10 and 11
Fiction: Reviews of William Boyd and J. G. Ballard; Marcel Berlins reviews the new Dick Francis; and Tim Heald the new Frederick Forsyth
Obituary, page 14
Lord Chittenden, PC, Mr Frank Tomney
Classified advertising, pages 26-29
Appointments: Crème de la crème; General appointments

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Tory conference to debate growing menace of hard drugs

By Richard Evans

The growing menace posed by illegal drugs will be debated by the Conservative Party for the first time at their annual conference in Brighton next month.

Its inclusion in the party agenda published yesterday reflects not only increasing concerns within government about the huge increase in young people using heroin and other hard drugs, but the anxiety of grassroots party activists.

A motion submitted by Pudey Conservative Association, calling on the Government to take immediate steps to eliminate drug, and solvent abuse "with particular emphasis on harsher sentences for pushers", will be replied to by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health.

Mr John Gummer, the party chairman, said: "This is a subject we have not covered before and it is a matter of very considerable importance."

Sir Russell Sanderson, chairman of the party committee which drew up the agenda, added: "We look every year to

see what subjects are actually bothering us in the constituencies and try to reflect this. This issue comes up very considerably."

There were 5,812 registered drug addicts last year but it is estimated that the number of people dependent on hard drugs is five times as large. The Department of Health is devoting an extra £7m during the next three years to combat drug abuse.

A total of 875 motions have been submitted this year, 101 more than last year, with local government leading the way with 126. But one of the toughest issues for ministers may prove to be the debate on the Government's public relations.

More than 70 motions have been submitted nearly all criticizing the Government's failure to explain its policies. Lord Whitelaw of Penrith, who is responsible for coordinating the presentation of government policy, will reply to a motion calling on the Government to smarten up its public relations.

Scientists told of boxing mayhem

By Staff Reporters

Mayhem in the boxing ring has reached epidemic proportions, a senior pathologist, Dr W. P. Mulloy, a consultant from Philadelphia in the United States told a conference of the International Association of Forensic Sciences at Oxford yesterday.

He said there was too much money involved to believe that boxing could be banned. That was unrealistic. There was a combination of a growing interest in contact sport and in the stimulus of television, to be taken into account.

But after showing evidence from the pathological laboratory of brain damage, which had killed or severely incapacitated fighters he suggested changes to make things safer.

Those included creating a computer list of boxers with their medical records, and providing each fighter with a "passport" showing what happened in past bouts.

Sir Lawrence Byford, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, told the conference that after bitter experience in the Yorkshire Ripper case, a national computer system developed in Britain and code-named HOLMES is expected to operate from January 1 1985, with all police forces coordinating their use of computers to link incidents and help detect individuals who commit series of crimes.

Searchlight on crime and life in new town

From Craig Seton
Milton Keynes

A research project to be carried out in Milton Keynes will try to examine for the first time whether there is any link between crime there and social changes involved in "artificially" establishing a new town.

The project is to be undertaken jointly by Thames Valley Police and Milton Keynes Development Corporation who have emphasized that there is no evidence that the new town has higher or more serious levels of crime than anywhere else. The study will attempt statistical comparisons with other new towns and similar-size populations.

The research will be carried out by Professor John Brown, Professor of Social Policy at Cranfield Institute of Technology and a detective inspector from Milton Keynes, if permission is granted for him to take part.

The population of Milton Keynes is nearly 150,000 and growing by about 7,000 a year. Unemployment is no higher than nationally, but there have been stresses and strains between local people and some newcomers who found it hard to settle.

Professor Brown said part of the study would examine patterns of crime and patterns of social disadvantage to define more clearly those "at risk" so that the proper agencies, police, social services, education, housing and health, could work more closely together.

He said: "When you move people to a green field site you split them up from the community they have known and they become more isolated. They think about a new life, but there is no such thing as a new life and they become disappointed. In one sense the problems may only be just beginning."

Buckinghamshire Social Services Department said the number of referrals from Milton Keynes was the highest in the county: 3.9 per thousand of population compared with 2.5.

Most referrals were from young families and included complaints about financial difficulties and troubles for young mothers who had moved away from their families and had no relatives to help look after their children.



Tipping his cap to the future: Brian Outhwaite, a striking miner at Nostell Colliery, West Yorkshire, has used the dispute to study for a career in law. On Friday he will leave mining to start a law degree course at Leeds University.

Drift to pits gathers pace

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The trickle back to work at the pits gathered pace yesterday, according to the National Coal Board.

Several areas reported record attendances as the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service continued to listen to both sides' point of view in an effort to reach an eventual settlement.

Another 22 miners reported for work in the key area of north Derbyshire making a record 924 pitmen defying the 28-week-old strike.

A new figure was also achieved in Scotland, where 258 workers, three more than Tuesday, walked through picket lines at 11 collieries.

The coal board said that in its western area, which covers Lancashire, 16 of the 17 pits reported some men working and total attendance reached 8,608 in a potential workforce of 17,200, the highest since the stoppage began.

Nationally more than

120,000 miners of a total 180,000 remain out.

The increasing bitterness caused by the strike erupted at Westoe colliery, Tyne and Wear, where the home of a lone miner who returned to work was damaged by six men and a woman.

Police are also investigating an incident in which a petrol

bomb was thrown at the colliery.

Much of the pit's underground workings had to be sealed after pit deputies refused to do safety work yesterday.

A coal board spokesman said management had been forced to switch off power to an underground area, almost five miles out under the North Sea, which includes one of five main coalfields. Equipment and machinery worth £2m have been abandoned without protection.

Leaders of the deputies union, which is conducting a strike ballot, argued that the board had previously asked their members not to report for work in case it exacerbated the situation.

The slow drift back in some parts of the coalfield was not a "sudden upsurge" a coal board spokesman said, but it was indicative of a continuing wish among the men to return to work.

PITS WITH MEN WORKING			
NCA Area	No. of pits	Men working	(% of total production)
Scotland	12	11	(1)
North-east	15	2	(0)
N Yorks	12	2	(0)
Doncaster	10	2	(0)
Barnsley	16	0	(0)
S Yorks	15	2	(0)
N Derby	9	7	(9)
Notts	14	14	(14)
S Notts	11	11	(11)
Midlands	15	15	(15)
Western	17	16	(13)
South Wales	28	0	(0)

*Includes the four Warwickshire pits which normally produce coal but are on holiday this week.

Paisley on defensive in Dublin

The Rev Ian Paisley was given an armed police guard when he arrived in Dublin to discuss the problems of Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic's Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Peter Barry.

But he snubbed an invitation to lunch from Mr Barry, saying that he would "not break bread" with him.

Mr Paisley, an MEP, was in Dublin for a meeting of the political affairs committee of the European Parliament at Dublin Castle.

He said: "I have come in fulfilment of my mandate from the Ulster people to defend the cause of Northern Ireland and her people in Europe."

Mr Paisley said that his visit did not conflict with his stance that he would never negotiate with ministers from the Republic.

Last week Mr Paisley accused Mr Barry of "unashamedly" abusing his position as president of the European Council of Ministers, when in Strasbourg he condemned the use of Britain of plastic bullets in Ulster. Mr Barry said that he was speaking as a representative of the Dublin government, and not as president of the council.

Yesterday Mr Paisley accused Mr Barry of using his European position to promote and further the cause of a united Ireland.

● The "national and common-sense approach" of the North-

ern Ireland Office towards the now-suspended hunger strike by 10 "loyalist" convicts in Magilligan jail, co Londonderry, in support of their demand to be segregated from republicans was condemned yesterday by the Protestant paramilitary Ulster Defence Association.

It said that it was imperative that a mutually satisfactory settlement was found while the atmosphere of conciliation existed, to ensure that the hunger strikers did not resume their fast.

The immediate pressure on the negotiators has been lifted by the prisoners' decision on Tuesday evening to resume taking food, at a "controlled low intake" sufficient to maintain

their present body weights but not to restore them to full health.

● Mr Rhodes Boyson, whose appointment as the new Minister of State for Northern Ireland, responsible for economic affairs, has been criticized by trade unions, yesterday announced two new ventures which will create 120 jobs.

Consolidated Micrographics of Newport Beach, California, is taking over a government factory at Limavady, co Londonderry, to make microfilm cameras and retrieval equipment and British Telecom is to double the size of its systems software engineering centre in Belfast.



Mr Paisley at Dublin Castle yesterday.

Warning of national police force

By Peter Evans

Threats to police efficiency by local politicians could bring nearer a national police force, Sir Lawrence Byford, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, said yesterday.

He was speaking after moves to sell South Yorkshire police horses and halve the police dog section. Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has the duty under the Police Act of 1964 of ensuring the overall efficiency of the police service. Sir Lawrence is Mr Brittan's link with forces to ensure that policing standards are maintained. Moves such as those by Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire to withdraw officers from the No 3 Regional Crime Squad are seen as a threat to the police role.

Sir Lawrence told the International Association of Forensic Sciences in Oxford: "What some people, and especially local politicians, overlook is that if the police do not operate as efficiently as they should in the national context, and as they have done in the coal miners' strike, then I believe we would be on the road towards a national police force in Britain."

Flooded mine will be idle for 15 months

Emergency machinery is being installed at the flooded Polkmet colliery, West Lothian, to allow mining specialists to inspect the underground workings to decide whether the pit can be saved.

The National Coal Board in Scotland said yesterday that a survey would assess the damage caused by the flooding and by neglect during the miners' strike. It would be at least two months before a final decision is made about the colliery's future. It supplied coking coal for the Ravenscroft steelworks.

The board said that even if it is possible to salvage the pit it would take 15 months to prepare it for production. Meanwhile the board would offer employment at other pits in the Scottish coalfield to any members of the 1,300 workers at Polkmet who wished to remain in the industry.

● A total of 87 striking miners from South Yorkshire yesterday appeared before Nottingham magistrates, charged with unlawful assembly and secured the removal of bail conditions banning them from Nottinghamshire and preventing them from picketing.

The charges related to August 8 when hundreds of pickets from the South Yorkshire area arrived at Harworth colliery,

Nottinghamshire, to picket the start of the afternoon shift.

Mr David Bluel, for the prosecution, agreed not to oppose bail and also not to request that the blanket ban on the men entering Nottinghamshire should remain.

Mr Robert Hullah, chairman of the magistrates, said: "We enlarge your bail with the condition that you should not indulge in any form of picketing except your normal place of work."

The men, from Doncaster, Barnsley, Pontefract and Rotherham were bailed for commitment to crown court in November and early December.

● Two striking miners were arrested and kept in police custody for 32 hours after making a 999 call to report a traffic incident, magistrates were told yesterday.

The police withdrew charges against Frank Allen, aged 46, and his son, Kevin, aged 23, of Gorse Bank Heath, near Chesterfield, and the magistrates ordered costs to be met from central funds.

The men were charged with using threatening behaviour, possessing a pickaxe handle as an offensive weapon, and attempting to beset a place of employment, namely Bolsover colliery.

Lorry ban would cover big area of London

By Christine Toomey

Detailed proposals to ban heavy lorries from the streets of London at night and weekends was published by the Greater London Council yesterday.

No lorry over 16.5 tonnes will be allowed in a 300 square mile area of the capital from 9pm to 7am and after 1pm on a Saturday according to the plan.

The affected area would cover most roads from Hounslow in the west to Bevilgham in the east and from Sutton in the south to Enfield in the north.

The Transport Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, has vowed to quash the scheme.

But the GLC was yesterday heralding the plan as the solution to a long-standing noise and pollution problem in the capital. It says Londoners are 4-1 in favour of the ban.

Objectors will have until November 21 to lodge complaints against the scheme.

The Freight Transport Association, the scheme's arch enemy, said last night it would be encouraging its 14,000 member companies throughout the UK to object "vehemently".

The GLC says it is getting around many of the FTA's objections by drawing up a network of roads excluded from the ban which service some of London's biggest commercial estates.

It also plans to issue exemption permits to lorries which can prove they cannot avoid using inner city roads at night.

These would then only be allowed in if they were fitted with costly "hush kits".

Equity agree fees for commercials

By David Hewson

The long-running dispute between Equity, the actors' union, and advertisers, about payment for performers appearing in commercials on Channel 4 and TV-am, is over.

The two sides announced yesterday that they had reached a compromise agreement to end the two-year-old dispute, after talks under the chairmanship of Mr John Whitney, Director-General of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Equity's general secretary, Mr Peter Plouviez, said the settlement offered actors a noticeable improvement, on previous offers, and would soon produce a considerable increase in the total earnings of members.

But the deal was bitterly criticized by the union's Centre Forward grouping, which lost control of the Equity council two months ago, because it concedes the principle that performers should receive fees related to the size of the audience.

Artists appearing on Channel 4 will receive 55 per cent of the full ITV fee and on TV-am 37 per cent, a settlement which CF described as "the shoddiest sell-out in Equity history".

Dispute could delay benefit cheques

By Glen Allan

Civil servants at two key computer centres which handle unemployment benefit payments will today give their answer to a strike call sounded earlier this week by union leaders.

If the collective answer is "yes", then more than three million people in the dole queues will find their fortnightly Giro cheques fail to arrive on their doorsteps on schedule. Instead, it will be left to other Civil Service clerks to write the benefit cheques by hand.

The two computer centres are located at Reading and Livingston, and each is staffed by about 60 operators belonging to the Civil and Public Services Association. At branch meetings last night they were being asked to come out on strike as from October 10 in support of workers at Newcastle upon Tyne's computer centre.

Westminster City Council yesterday bought itself a present: the eighteenth-century Grant of Arms to the City of Westminster, an illuminated manuscript on vellum, for which it paid £7,020 (estimate £2-3,000) in a sale at Christie's of printed books and autograph letters and manuscripts.

Lady Porter, Conservative leader of the council, said that the manuscript had disappeared shortly after it was enrolled in the minutes of the Westminster Court of Burgesses on May 20, 1729.

The private vendor yesterday insisted on anonymity and would not discuss its earlier whereabouts.

Lady Porter said that the council had wanted to add the manuscript to its archives and plate room in City Hall, not only because it was part of Westminster's heritage but

Acid rain threatens parks with catastrophe

By Peter Davenport

National parks and nature reserves throughout Europe are facing imminent "catastrophe" from the effects of acid rain and atmospheric pollution.

A conference on the dangers facing the parks begins tomorrow at Castleton in Derbyshire, with the Peak District National Park authorities as hosts.

Reports to the Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe, will highlight the sources of the pollution and its drastic effects and there will be a demand for effective government action to control the source of the pollution.

The results of a survey of individual parks throughout Europe, organized by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, will detail the practical effects of the pollution.

Acid rain, produced by discharge from power stations in Britain, has been blamed for pollution in Scandinavia, but a report to be presented at the conference also points blame for conditions in Central Europe to communist countries.

Meriden told to pay £102,000

The Meriden Motor Cycle Cooperative, formed in the 1970s with the help of public funds to try to save jobs and the Triumph motorcycle, has been ordered to pay more than £102,000 in compensation to 177 workers after debts forced its closure last year.

An industrial tribunal in Birmingham ruled that the cooperative, now in liquidation, must pay the money as wages lost because the directors did not consult the Transport and General Workers' Union for long enough before the workers were made redundant.

Food-poisoning inquests resume

Inquests were resumed at Wakefield yesterday on 25 patients who died during the food poisoning outbreak which started on August 26 at Stanley Road psycho-geriatric hospital, Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Verdicts of death from natural causes were recorded on six of them after Dr Prem Hamal, the pathologist said tests had eliminated salmonella infection. But he said, salmonella had contributed to the other 19 deaths.

Mr Philip Gill, the coroner, said the source of the infection was still being investigated and he adjourned the inquest until October 17.

Second thoughts on by-elections

Labour members of the metropolitan county councils have postponed a decision about forcing by-elections because of uncertainty about the turnout in today's four contests in London. Mr Ken Livingstone, and three other former Labour members of the Greater London Council, are standing for reelection today. They see the polls as tests of public opinion about the Government's determination to abolish the GLC.

Labour members of the six councils which are threatened with abolition at the same time as the GLC want to force similar elections in their own areas next year.

Dounreay may be nuclear site

A £200m nuclear reprocessing plant could be sited at Dounreay, in the north of Scotland, receiving shipments of radioactive material from Europe.

Dounreay is already the site of the UK Atomic Energy Authority's prototype fast reactor and reprocesses its own used fuel on a small scale. Mr Clifford Blumfield, director of Dounreay, said yesterday he would be recommending that the new reprocessing plant be sited there.

Westminster buys a gift for its 400th birthday

By Tony Samstag

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Christian Aid director gives up post

By Clifford Longley

Dr Charles Elliott, the director of Christian Aid, has resigned after what a spokesman for the agency called "internal difficulties". It is understood he had lost the confidence of certain key staff.

He was appointed in 1982, being formerly professor of development policy at the University of Wales, and his reputation was that of a radical critic of the church's involvement in economic affairs.

The Board of Christian Aid accepted the new directions he wished to give the agency, which is one of Britain's biggest overseas aid charities and a department of the British Council of Churches, and was stated on the board's behalf yesterday that there had been no disagreement on basic policies with Dr Elliott.

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The sinking of the General Belgrano

The following extracts are from the annex to Mrs Thatcher's letter replying to Mr Foulkes's questions on the sinking of the General Belgrano.

In late April 1982 the task force was strung out between Ascension Island and the Falklands and vulnerable to attack. On April 23 1982, the Government accordingly sent the following message to the Argentine Government, making it clear that the terms of the communication came into effect immediately.

"In announcing the establishment

The Thatcher letters

The following is the partial text of Mrs Thatcher's letter to Mr Foulkes concerning the prosecution of Mr Clive Ponting.

The Ponting prosecution

by the Law Officers, not by Ministers. Your letter and last Sunday's Observer allege that Michael Heseltine overruled advice given to him and insisted that Mr Ponting be prosecuted. This is not so.

The Director of Public Prosecutions had been advised of the case on the morning of August 13, and after consultation with the Solicitor General had already asked for a very early police report. When the early Ministry of Defence official, Sir Ewen Broadbent, who had earlier briefed the Director of Public Prosecutions, reported to Michael Heseltine later that afternoon, he informed him of the stage reached.

Michael Heseltine noted the report and that the decision whether or not to prosecute rested with the Law Officers. Neither I nor any other Ministers in the Ministry of Defence or elsewhere intervened in the succeeding days. The Director of Public Prosecutions received the detailed police report on August 16 and consulted the Law Officers who decided on August 17 to proceed with the prosecution. The Law Officers did not seek the view of, or consult with, any other Minister, nor was the view of any other Minister conveyed to them before they took their decision to prosecute Mr Ponting.

The necessary order conveying this change was sent by Naval Headquarters at Northwood to HMS Conqueror at 1.30 pm (all timings in this and the following paragraphs are given in London time). Shortly after 3 pm, HMS Conqueror reported the position of the Belgrano at 9 am and 3 pm that day. HMS Conqueror had not then received the order changing the Rules of Engagement. The limit-

ations in communications with our submarines operating in the far South Atlantic meant that submarine operations there could not be monitored and controlled hour by hour. It was not until after 5 pm that HMS Conqueror reported that she had received and understood the new order and intended to attack. The Belgrano was attacked just before 8 pm.

Conqueror's report on the Belgrano's position was received by Northwood at 3.40pm and made known to senior naval officers there and at the Ministry of Defence later that afternoon. The report showed that the Belgrano had reversed the basis of the clear and unequivocal indications available to the Government that the Argentine Navy posed a real and direct threat to the Task Force and those sailing with it and on the advice of their most senior military advisers, Ministers decided that the Rules of Engagement should be changed to permit attacks on all Argentine naval vessels on the high seas.

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Court sits at bedside of man charged with murdering a policeman

A small room in a private ward was turned into a courtroom yesterday when a patient faced seven charges, including one of murdering a policeman.

The accused, Colin Richards, aged 35, was too ill to leave Essex County Hospital in Colchester, so the Colchester Magistrates' Court hearing was convened at his bedside in Jefferson ward.

Mr Richards, of Sandpit Lane, South Wood, Breunwood, Essex, lay in bed as 10 people crowded into the 15ft by 12ft room. A hospital sister stood near him as the court clerk read the charges.

The clerk was seated on a red-cushioned bench. Next to him was the magistrate, Mr Brian King, Solicitors for the defence and prosecution and Det Insp Jeff Murray, from Colchester, and Supt Cliff Stollery, from Essex Police headquarters were there too.

Also in the room was the governor of Norwich Prison, Mr Reginald Withers, representing the Home Office, Prisons Department, the hospital administrator, Mr Robin Stern, and Journalist, Peter Woodman of the Press Association.

Each visitor passed through strict security to reach the court.

Mr Richards was charged with murdering Police Constable Brian Bishop, aged 37, at Frinton, Essex, on August 22, and the attempted murder of Sergeant Mervyn Fairweather, aged 39, at Frinton on the same day.

He is also accused of a robbery at Walton post-office, Essex, on August 22 and putting Peter John Hart in fear of being subjected to force on that occasion.

Mr Richards was also charged with assaulting Eric Jona-

than Cobden with intent to rob at Frinton on August 22.

The fifth charge was that on August 27, 1982, at the Woolwich Building Society, Chelmsford, Mr Richards stole £6,551 and there was a further charge of being subjected to force.

He was further charged that on March 1, 1983, at Frinton, he stole £3,877 in cash property of Lloyds Bank, and that Deborah Jean Smith, aged 17, was being subjected to force.

The last charge put to Mr Richards was that on the same day at Frinton he had his possession, a sawn-off shotgun with intent to endanger life.

Mr Richards was refused bail and was remanded in prison custody until October 17, but Mr Stern said it was unlikely he would leave the hospital for some time.

Where Mrs Thatcher gets divine inspiration

By Clifford Langley Religious Affairs Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's favourite Bible verse contains the line "God is in the midst of her, and she shall not be moved". Mr Arthur Scargill, leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, said when he had a "surge of small cords, he moves them all out".

The timely discovery of these apt texts was made by a group of Bristol schoolboys, who wrote to the high, mighty and famous, asking for their biblical "best bits". The collected volume of the replies, published today, is an amusing and revealing angle on many famous names. Needless to say, not one suggested "Blessed are the meek".

Some politicians, in particular, do not appear to know their Bibles. Mr Michael Foot wrote to commend what he called "the gospel of hope" without chapter or verse, and the boys looked it up and could not find it. Sir Keith Joseph offered: "Take what you like, said God, take it and pay for it," which is equally nonplussing.

The Queen, the Pope, and Cardinal Basil Hume sent their best wishes only. The boys of Greenway Comprehensive School, Bristol, were particularly impressed by the Vatican notepaper, although one of them said he bet Jesus did not have writing paper like that.

The Prince of Wales commended the Golden Rule: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them", and Mr Neil Kinnock the chapter from Ecclesiastes beginning: "To every thing there is a season..." Unlike his predecessor he had chapter and verse off pat.

Miss Janet Green, the boys' teacher, set the task as an imaginative exercise in religious education.

The school has since been closed, but it lives on in the book "Best Bible Bits" which is published by the Church Information Service, Westminster (E495), and launched at a reception at Lambeth Palace yesterday.



Marked: Pride, a Labrador, demonstrating a national computer identification system to help trace lost pets. The Pet Registry, to be offered by veterinary surgeons and animal welfare groups. Organizers say the tattoo is painless. (Photograph: John Manning).

Girl of 16 denies school arson plot

A girl aged 16 took revenge on the headmaster she hated - by plotting to burn down his school, a jury at Preston Crown Court was told yesterday.

The girl, a fifth former, who was said to have harboured a grudge against the headmaster, Mr Michael Payne, denies inciting two young men to start the fire.

Flames were seen coming from the 1,000-pupil Millfield Comprehensive School at Thornton, near Blackpool, in the early hours of March 28. The fire destroyed an entire block, causing more than £100,000 of damage.

Earlier the girl had written a poem on the school wall which read "Revenge is sweet, revenge is mine. I shall wait and bide my time" and had composed a song glorifying the school's destruction, the court was told.

Mr Peter Openshaw, for the prosecution, said that the two men who started the fire were awaiting sentence after pleading guilty to arson. They admitted sprinkling turpentine to accelerate the fire.

The case continues today.

New look urged on countryside policy

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A government White Paper setting out a strategy for the future management of Britain's countryside was called for yesterday by Sir Derek Barber, chairman of the Countryside Commission.

He said the paper should clarify relationships between competing uses of the countryside, and plan the land's "effective, discreet, sensitive and non-bureaucratic management".

"It would be about farming and forestry, and landscape and wildlife conservation, about jobs and recreation, about the whole rural fabric", he said.

Sir Derek's suggestion was welcomed by Mr Simon Gourlay, deputy president of the National Farmers' Union. He promised that the union would work closely with the commission on policies for the countryside and had reservations only at the use of the word "competing", which he felt was unnecessary.

The presence of Mr Gourlay, and senior Ministry of Agriculture officials at a conference to present the commission's annual report shows how much the climate has changed in a few months.

The NFU, due to publish its own policy statement next

Warning on exploding festival wine

The makers of a special souvenir wine yesterday warned drinkers to destroy every bottle after two had exploded.

Visitors to the International Garden Festival at Liverpool were invited to treat the grapes at its "vineyard" display, and the fruits of their labour, bottles of "Chateau de Mersey", were given away as souvenirs.

The "Cellar 5" offence chain which organized the event, gave away 300 bottles all labelled "Produced solely for fun. Not to be consumed until the year 3,000".

They have asked customers to pour away the wine or get rid of the bottle to stop further accidents.

Trout pay-out

An angling club at Cwmcam, Gwent, is to receive compensation after claiming that suck of trout were scooped from its lake when a huge bucket was repeatedly dropped from a helicopter brought in by the Forestry Commission to fight a forest fire.

Dog recruits

More than 250 dogs have been offered to RAF Newton, near Nottingham, after an appeal for dogs to be trained in security work for American and British bases and to search for explosives and weapons.

Adams home sale

The Eastbourne home of Dr John Bodkin Adams, cleared in 1957 of murdering one of his patients, was sold yesterday at auction for £95,000. Dr Adams died last year after a fall at the age of 84.

Kipper campaign

A national campaign to revive the public sale of kippers is to be launched next month by the Sea Fish Industry Authority. Its summer promotion of fresh herring boosted sales by 45 per cent.

Golf vandalism

Vandals have defaced greens at Wentworth golf course in Surrey, only a week before the Surrey Match Play championships.

Loan rate stays

The Halifax Building Society, which has 1,250,000 borrowers, decided yesterday not to increase its mortgage interest rate.

Polish rescue crew to keep their gifts

By Sheila Beardsall

The crew of a Polish schooner, which rescued nine survivors from the Marques during the Tall Ships race in June, have won their fight to keep presents of alcohol and cigarettes.

Customs officials impounded the 36 bottles of wine and spirits and 600 cigarettes and imposed a heavy fine because the goods had not been declared when the Zawisza Czarny docked at Southampton Boat Show.

The presents had been given to the crew after they went to the help of the British-owned Marques which sank with the loss of 19 lives while taking part in the race between Bermuda and Halifax.

The crew, who intended to save the presents for a party when they returned to Poland, were deluged with offers of money to pay for the goods and the fine.

But yesterday a spokesman for the Board of Customs and



Happy again: Captain Jan Saver.

Excise said the officials had relented and would issue only a "severe warning" to Captain Saver.

He added: "We took charge of the goods and they will be returned to the captain under seal, which he will not be allowed to open until he is outside territorial waters."

British tourists 'held prisoner' at Palma

A planeload of British holidaymakers claim they were held prisoner for 14 hours in a stifling Spanish airport lounge, and denied food or drink for 10 hours. They say that when a number attempted to get some fresh air, armed guards showed their guns as a warning.

Finally, when they saw a travel firm representative after a nightlong wait, she could not face the distraught tourists and locked herself in a lavatory.

The ordeal began when 30 Cosmos holidaymakers left their hotel in Majorca and arrived at Palma airport, Majorca, for another 14 hours as the airport lounge became hot and stuffy.

Cosmos yesterday promised an investigation, and added: "We tried to get information from Iberia and tried to remove our passengers from the departure lounge, but they would not let us because they had already gone through passport control."

"We tried our level best but matters were taken out of our hands by Iberia. This strike has meant all our operators flying out of Palma have had difficulties. We are very sorry for what's happened."

But their detention continued

No penalty for trespass by 11 in consulate

Eleven Iranians held captive for a day and beaten in their own country's consulate in Kensington, London, were given absolute discharges yesterday for trespassing in a protest on the day WPC Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead outside the Libyan People's Bureau. A charge of criminal damage against them was withdrawn.

Mr Stephen Irwin, for the defence told West London Magistrates' Court that the 11 were abusing the law and said the Iranian consulate staff told the defendants: "This is Iranian soil. We can kill you, do what we want, there's not a damn thing the British Government can do about it."

Cleared driver convicted at second hearing

A football club manager was yesterday convicted of driving with excess alcohol, more than a year after being cleared.

Joe Royle, aged 35, of Oldham Athletic was disqualified from driving for 12 months, fined £50 and ordered to pay £20 costs.

He was cleared of the charge in August 1983, but after a prosecution appeal two High Court judges sent the case back to the Manchester magistrates and ordered a conviction.

Royle, of Chadderton, Greater Manchester, refused to comment afterwards.

The magistrates originally dismissed the case saying the prosecution had failed to prove there had been a valid arrest.

Three are given new hearts at Harefield

Three heart transplants, including a heart-lung operation, were carried out at Harefield Hospital, west London, last weekend, the hospital disclosed yesterday.

Last Friday, an Englishman aged 52 received a new heart in an operation carried out by Mr Magdi Yacoub. On Saturday afternoon, he performed a similar transplant on a man aged 46, from the Netherlands.

On Monday, a woman aged 35 was given a heart-lung transplant by Mr Yacoub and his team during an eight-hour operation. The condition of all three patients was said to be satisfactory last night, but the request of their relatives, none was being named.

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T12

LIBERAL ASSEMBLY

● Thatcher's economic flaws

● Law-breaking endorsed

● Ezra enters pit dispute

Ezra calls on Government to help to create new pit talks framework

Reports by Barbara Day, Anthony Hodges and Stephen Goodwin

A former chairman of the National Coal Board lent his support at the Liberal Assembly in Bournemouth yesterday to an initiative to create a framework for renewed talks to end the mining dispute.

Lord Ezra told the delegates that a great industry with great prospects was in the process of destroying itself. "It is something we cannot allow to go on."

An emergency motion passed after a sometimes emotional debate called on the Government to prepare a national energy policy which did not depend on the development of nuclear power and which acknowledged "that the viability of certain collieries can alter as circumstances change".

It called for a financial reconstruction of the NCB substantially to reduce its indebtedness. Increased support for research and development projects aimed at developing new markets for coal, and more positive efforts to create jobs in communities hit by pit closures. Those would include financial support and an NCB enterprise company.

The motion condemned both mob violence on the picket lines and the failure of the Government to intervene in the dispute.

Lord Ezra, who headed the coal board from 1971 to 1982, said that he had hitherto been reluctant to make public utter-

ances about the dispute. Because of his long involvement with the industry he feared anything he said could have added to an already difficult situation. However, with the conference debate, and the emergency motion he thought he would take the risk and say what should happen.

"For one such as myself who spent his time in the coal industry in various capacities trying to build it up with Joe Gormley (then president of the NUM and now Lord Gormley) and others it is indeed a sad spectacle to see what is happening today."

Before talks between the NCB and NUM started again a framework had to be created which would be likely to lead to more positive results, Lord Ezra said.

"I can see no advantage in asking them to get round the table again and going over the ground they have been over so many times without agreement."

"We should seek to find a framework within which more effective negotiations can take place."

He believed such a framework should take the form proposed in the motion. The Government would have to be involved in creating the framework although they were not a direct party to the dispute.

It would help to create the right atmosphere for the next round of negotiations if the NCB was to state categorically that it "fully recognized the social implications of mine closures for whatever reason."

"I believe the NUM, with a bit of goodwill, could also contribute to creating a better climate for negotiations if they were publicly to come out against the use of violence and intimidation in any form in connection with this dispute."

Mr James Wallace, MP for Orkney and Shetland, introducing the motion, said that the Government must act. "It is a dereliction of their duty to stand on the sidelines for one moment longer as this dispute becomes more bitter and more protracted."

The Liberal proposals would go a long way to change the backdrop against which negotiations could take place and would give substance to the Government's much trumpeted claim that they believed in a long term future for coal.

Mr Wallace castigated both Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher. "She appointed Ian MacGregor to the chairmanship of the NCB. She must have known like everyone else did that Arthur Scargill was spoiling for a fight and that twice his members had denied him the opportunity."

"Why on earth did she give him the battle he wanted by the appointment of Mr MacGregor. It must surely rank as the costliest and most inept appointment of recent times."

Mr Alan Thompson, of Wansbeck, Northumberland, said the miners' strike was endangering the whole trade union movement. Miners were being used against their will as political cannon fodder.

The dispute had brought terrible hardship. So far it had cost each miner about £4,000. Miners had been forced to sell belongings at a fraction of their value. Miner had been set against miner, father against son, and family against family.

Mr Patrick O'Callaghan, political vice-chairman of the National League of Young Liberals, said the motion was a cheap piece of NUM bashing. It condemned the violence of a small minority of miners on the picket line but said nothing about the activities of the police.

As the assembly moved towards a vote there were angry protests that not enough speakers had been called against the motion and that the debate was therefore unbalanced. The motion was eventually carried on a show of hands by a substantial majority.



Counter charge: Mr Steel attacking the placing of VAT on hot takeaway foods (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Steel serves up a VAT protest

Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, turned chippy yesterday, and accused the Government of putting up to 20,000 chip shop workers out of a job.

He claimed value-added tax on hot takeaway food had hit Britain's chip shops and the people who used them.

Wearing white overalls and paper hat, Mr Steel (left) launched his attack from behind the counter of a chip shop in Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, near the Bournemouth Pavilion where the Liberals are holding their annual assembly.

The shop's owner, Mr Tony Watts, joined the onslaught. He claimed that his takings were down 30 per cent and families were switching from fish to sausages with their chips.

Mr Steel served himself a 30p portion in a bag labelled "The Great British Takeaway", soaked them in vinegar, and jokingly offered one for 10p to a middle-aged admirer who pushed her way through reporters and photographers to get a snapshot.

A few dainty handfuls went into the mouth of the Scottish MP. "Chips are a regular part of my diet. I usually eat them in the car", he said.

Secondary picketing laws condemned

Against the advice of two of its parliamentary spokesmen, the assembly condemned laws against secondary picketing and endorsed a debate on the protection of individual liberties.

There was unanimous opposition to the Government's banning of trade unions at GCHQ, Cheltenham, and a pledge to reverse that ban once the party was in power.

The assembly, also in defiance of the party spokesmen, opposed the attempted use of court procedure to seize the funds of newspapers and trade unions.

Mr David Penhalligon, Liberal MP for Truro and party spokesman on employment, welcomed the clear condemnation of the GCHQ union ban and promised that the liberals would reverse it "at the very first whiff of power". But he also urged delegates not to oppose laws on secondary picketing, a subject on which he believed the Government had been right to legislate.

He said that secondary picketing, particularly when it was en masse, took away the individual freedoms of other people.

Mr Alex Carlisle, QC, Liberal MP for Montgomery and party spokesman on home affairs and the law, said that the protection of individual liberties was the "holy grail" of Liberalism. There might well come a time, he said, when a citizen or a group would be justified in disobeying the law or when the whole Liberal Party or Alliance was so frustrated by the Government's prejudice on individual liberties that they would be justified in disobeying the law. But he did not believe that the time had yet arrived.

There was a great deal of all-party support for incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law and he would hate to see the party out on a limb away from that campaign. They should hold fire.

Despite that, the assembly agreed a motion saying it believed the British people were morally justified in disobeying the law of the court where this was in furtherance of the articles of the European Convention on Human Rights and its protocols provided they were prepared to justify their actions in the courts of Britain and Europe.

Delegates applauded eight trade unionists from GCHQ who were watching the debate and were pointed out by Mr Richard Holmes, former party president and prospective parliamentary candidate for Cheltenham. He paid tribute to their courage and said the full story of the union ban, a story of misjudgment and miscalculation, had yet to be told.

Top emergency

As a result of a ballot on emergency motions, the assembly will add to its agenda later in the week a debate on proposals to change improvement grants. That topic dedicated motions on membership of the Freemasons and the "Loyalist" hunger strike in Northern Ireland.

Today's debates

One of the main debates of the week takes place today when the assembly discusses defence and disarmament. Other debates will be on higher education, drug abuse, media and the individual, and a fair trading policy for Britain.

Reagan under fire in debate on aid

President Reagan's macho view of the mighty dollar was crippling the finances of the Third World, Mr John Waller, prospective parliamentary candidate for Twickenham, told the assembly.

In a rousing contribution to a debate on aid to the Third World, Mr Waller said that Mrs Margaret Thatcher should tell Mr Reagan to stop mucking about with US contributions to the World Bank and other development funds.

The assembly passed a motion noting the lack of progress in helping Third World countries to find solutions to their problems and calling on the Government to implement the Brandt report recommendation to raise Britain's aid budget to 0.7 per cent of GNP immediately and to 1 per cent by the year 2000.

It also called for increased access for developing countries to EEC markets, a greater emphasis on multilateral aid and an end to tied aid.

Mr Gavin Scott, prospective parliamentary candidate for Surrey south west, said that in the 90 minutes since their morning session began more than 3,000 children had died from starvation and malnutrition. Before the afternoon session was over more than 8,000 more would have died.

Mr Gerald Howells, MP for Ceredigion and Pembroke North, said when the Liberal Party took office they would have a minister responsible for the Third World.

Lord Banks, president of the Liberal European Action Group, said it was vital to recognize the role which the EEC played in trade and aid. It was the largest single trading entity in the world and the Third World was, therefore, greatly affected by EEC policies.

Britain 'soon be part of Third World'

A motion on economic strategy, including a new decentralized system of incomes determination, the establishment of regional development agencies and the encouragement of local enterprise agencies, received overwhelming support at the assembly.

Mr Richard Wainwright, Liberal MP for Colne Valley, moved the motion which called for plans to make the economy productive and competitive, give a shift towards high value-added and low resource use, create a society in which individuals could share in the extra wealth and which would permit everyone to be more flexible about the allocation of their life between work, education and leisure.

The fundamental flaws in Mrs Thatcher's economic strategy were manifest for all to see, Mr Wainwright said, and the were being contrasted by the drop in unemployment and inflation in the United States, which was operating a deliberate policy of deficit financing.

Ever the slow climb back to something like the 1979 level was a fragile and modest economic move that was likely to peter out before next year. In some areas the peak was already past, in fact, as was the volume of North Sea oil.

Accompanying that, pay settlements were rising ahead of price increases and our competitive position was falling with no single structural change

having been achieved in the past five years.

Unemployment had grown 300 per cent since 1980 and the cost in human terms was shamefully manifest in almost every home. The cash cost was more than £15,000m a year and in lost production it had been estimated at £20,000 a year.

The strategy outlined by the motion, he said, would set the country back in the direction of economic growth, create jobs and give individuals a greater say over their own affairs.

Mr Trevor Jones, chairman of the Association of Liberal Councillors, said the way the country was heading it would be a part of the Third World by the end of the century with the lowest standards of living in Europe, West or East of the iron curtain.

But he opposed the motion because it did nothing to bring people face to face with the horrible reality that lay ahead: it highlighted problems without providing the answers.

The Liberal message should be that the solution lay with the British people themselves.

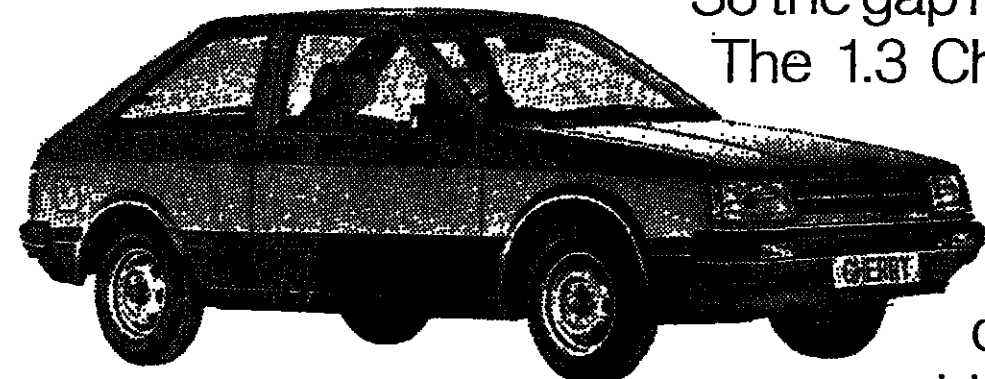
They had to be shown how to help themselves. Government could not solve their problems, only help and assist.

Mr Chris Graham, Chippenham, said unemployment was the key issue. The party that could convince the electorate it could conquer the problem would win the next election.

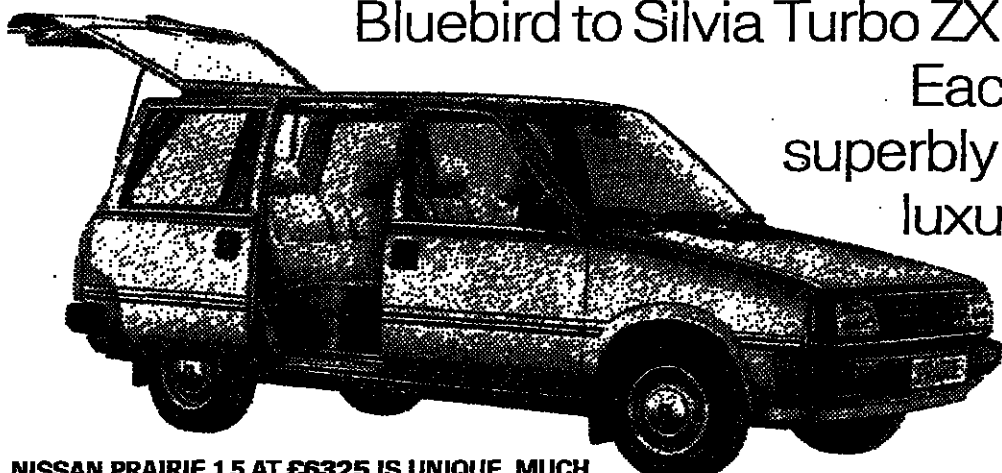
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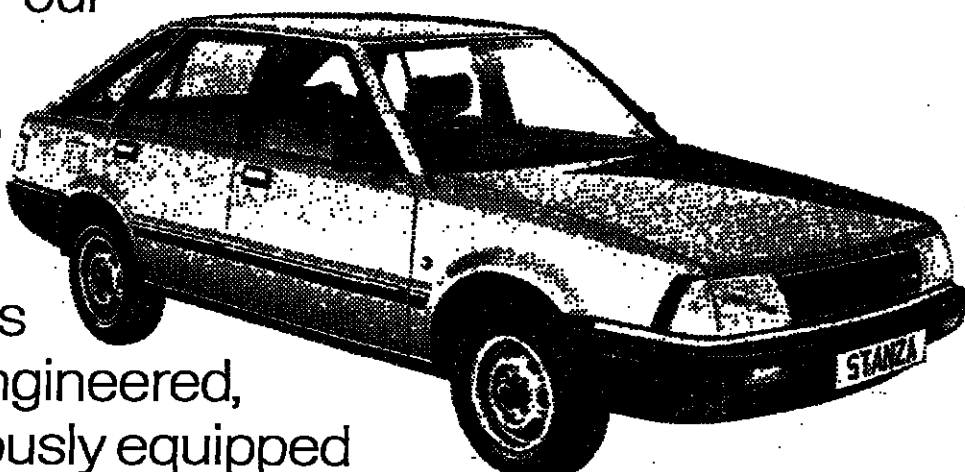
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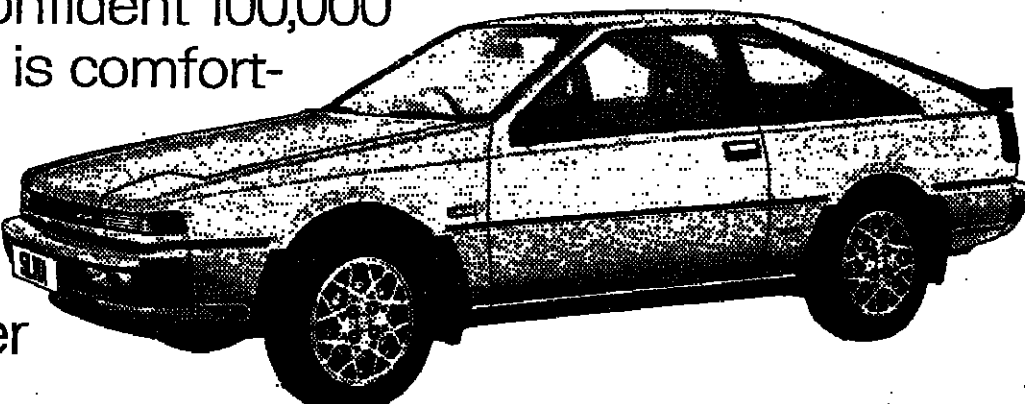
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Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Is the Alliance aiming to win power at the next general election, or should it be seeking simply to hold the balance between Labour and the Conservatives? The question may seem a little eccentric at this stage, rather like asking a school leaver whether he would prefer to be Foreign Secretary or Chancellor of the Exchequer.

But this apparently academic question in fact points to two fundamentally different concepts of the Alliance. That is why it figured prominently in the discussions at a particularly interesting fringe meeting in Bournemouth on Tuesday evening which featured Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal MP, and Mr Ian Wigglesworth, the Social Democratic MP, two of the most obviously rising stars of their respective parties.

Mr Ashdown was critical of Dr Owen's publicly expressed belief that the Alliance should go for the balance of power. Mr Ashdown regarded such a modest target as pretty poor tactics when the Alliance was already running at about 25 per cent in the opinion polls. But more important, he feared that it implied a lack of long-term commitment to the Alliance.

Electoral reform then all bets off

He was afraid of a strategy that would seek to secure the balance of power in the next Parliament, do a deal with either Labour or the Conservatives for the introduction of electoral reform, and would then consider all bets to be off between the SDP and the Liberals once proportional representation had been obtained.

The balance of power strategy is disturbing to Mr Ashdown and others like him above all because it suggests the impermanence of the Alliance. This question of whether the Alliance is to be a lasting arrangement has become a more sensitive issue

than all the speculation about a merger. Anybody of any political judgment in both parties knows that there is no possibility of their merging before the next general election. But there is a yearning to be told that the love will last.

Mr Jenkins caught the mood yesterday in bringing greetings to the conference from the SDP: "A cold Alliance based on hard-fisted bargaining and little else would quickly be seen for what it was."

Owen is not, however, an ardent political suitor. He appears to want cooperation without emotional commitment, which may seem to accord with his reputation for realism. He was indeed being more realistic than other Alliance leaders in the general election when they kept on claiming to the point of absurdity that they were hoping to form the next government.

That was rather like a drowning man gasping out, as he came up for the second time, that he was about to swim the Channel. Owen carried more conviction then in asking voters to limit the size of the Mrs Thatcher's inevitable majority.

Cooperation and commitment But I do not believe that he is being more realistic in his strategy now. It seems unlikely that it will be possible to get the necessary practical cooperation between the two parties without emotional commitment.

That is particularly evident over the allocation of parliamentary seats, which has once again emerged as a dangerous chasmic edge to this conflict if the two parties are manoeuvring for advantage now in preparation for the day when they will be competing against each other under a different electoral system.

It would be even less realistic to imagine that the electoral system could swiftly be changed if only the Alliance held the balance of power. There are, it is true, supporters of electoral reform in both the Conservative and the Labour parties. But it is more likely that these parties would call the Alliance's bluff. Why should they concede after only one election a fundamental change which most of their MPs would regard as contrary to their interests?

Perhaps Liberals and Social Democrats may find that they do not after all think sufficiently alike to come closer. But deliberately to make it harder for Liberals and Social Democrats to cooperate effectively here and now for the sake of a distant goal which may not be attainable anyway would not be the height of political wisdom. To do that in the name of practical politics would be doubly ironic.

Warning on buying property abroad

By Christopher Worman, Property Correspondent

A family arrived in Spain recently with all their belongings and their dog to pick up the key for their new home, having been told it was complete. When they arrived they found that the foundations had not been laid.

That cautionary tale is an extreme example of the dangers of buying abroad without making sure about the property. Mr David Vaughan, manager of the overseas residential department of Chestertons, chartered surveyors said.

"In Spain, particularly, there are a lot of people taking pot luck in buying a property. Some of them do not really take advice, and they will come a cropper," he said on the eve of a homes overseas exhibition at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, London.

Mr Vaughan, whose firm sells villas and apartments in many countries, said the market in Spain was incredibly competitive. "Developers offer big discounts, attract buyers and hand them a contract without any searches being made. People should be very careful before going ahead."

Seeing quick profits, some small firms of developers are building and marketing properties without any permissions, and too many potential buyers go to Spain believing they know better than the experts, Mr Vaughan added.

However, the overseas property market remains very strong, and it is estimated that in Spain, the most popular choice, Britons own about

40,000 properties. About a third are thought to be permanent homes.

Insurance for time-sharing

An insurance scheme which offers protection to the owners of time-share properties if their management companies fail to provide a satisfactory service or go bankrupt has been launched by the British Property Time-share Association.

The scheme, available only to owners of properties developed by members of the BPTA, for whom it is mandatory, offers owners a fighting fund of £50,000 if the management company fails.

The BPTA management bond, believed the first of its kind in the world, has been arranged by Lloyd's brokers, Gibbs & Harley Cooper Ltd, and underwritten by DAS Legal Expenses Insurance and Phoenix Assurance.

There are safeguards for those who are prepared to take advice, and who are not tempted by the prospect of a large discount, which often turns out to be less valuable than it seemed.

The Federation of Overseas Property Developers, Agents and Consultants, set up to provide protection, acknowledges that there are few legislative controls on those involved in the sale of property overseas.

Airline gives injured bird lift to Africa

British Airways is to give an injured migrating bird a "lift" to Africa.

The bird, a Wren, was attacked by a cat and rescued by Mrs Pamela Glocking, a bird enthusiast, of Torbay, Devon. She took it to the bird hospital in Taunton, where a small boat was placed on its injured right leg.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: "It is doubtful if the Wren would have the stamina for the 4,000-mile flight and if the bird winters in Britain with people it will become tame and it will be extremely difficult for it to readjust to the wild." It will probably be carried on a flight to Nairobi, but final details remain to be settled with the RSPB.

Hearse drivers fought at funeral

Two hearse drivers dismissed for gross misconduct by a firm of funeral directors in Cardiff have dropped a claim for unfair dismissal.

Mr David Eckley, aged 24, of Cathedral View, Cardiff, and Mr Harry Moore, aged 33, of Heol Ebwy, Cardiff, were dismissed by Augustine Stone, Of Cowbridge Road, after a number of funeral fiascos.

They included a fight outside a church during a funeral service, and putting topless pin-up pictures in a garage where priests parked. On one occasion Mr Eckley went to work in training shoes and white socks, and at a funeral stood in church beside a coffin combing his hair.

The men dropped their claim when an industrial tribunal in Cardiff was told of their record.



Quito plane crash kills 50

SOLDIERS and police search for survivors after a DCB cargo jet crashed into a residential area near Quito airport, Ecuador, killing at least 50 people.

Radio broadcasts quoted firemen as saying the death toll could reach 80 or 90 by the time a search is completed of the shattered houses and fuselage of the aircraft which was embedded in some houses.

The cargo jet, bound from Miami to Guayaquil after a stopover in Quito, crashed after take-off, on Tuesday night about 200 yards from the runway, hitting at least a

dozen houses and scattering debris over a wide area.

Firemen, despite the lack of electricity at the scene, continued to retrieve bodies from the smoking, twisted remains of houses in the area, known as Ciudadela el Rosario, a populous middle-class suburb.

There was no official report on the number of casualties or cause of the crash. President León Febres Cordero went to the site and declared three days of national mourning.

'Sub' netted by trawler had wings

Oslo (Reuters) - A suspected submarine, caught in the nets of a fishing boat off the west coast of Norway on Tuesday, turned out to be an old aircraft wreck, the Norwegian Navy said yesterday.

It was earlier thought almost certain that the object which dragged a 47ft shrimp trawler backwards at a speed of three knots for about an hour off the west coast port of Stavanger was a foreign submarine. But a spokesman at the Navy's maritime operations centre said yesterday it was an aircraft, which probably crashed during the Second World War.

There was a strong current in the area and high seas and winds, and these factors must have made it seem as though the boat was being dragged by the object in the nets," he said.

STOCKHOLM: Sweden, which has complained persistently about violations of its territory, mostly by Soviet submarines, was in the embarrassing position yesterday of having to admit that it had been guilty of such an offence (Christopher Mosey writes).

In an incident on Monday, a Swedish Air Force jet strayed for five minutes into Norwegian airspace near Oslo, the Foreign Ministry have admitted. A spokesman said the Swedish Charge D'Affaires in Oslo had apologized.

Gunmen murder ex-senator near Palermo

From John Earle Rome

Signor Ignazio Mineo, for many years a Senator for the small Republican Party, was murdered on Tuesday night as he was parking outside his home in Bagheria, near Palermo, in an area noted for Mafia crime.

The 60-year-old politician was shot by two youths who pulled up beside him on a motor cycle. His wife, who was with him, was unhurt.

After speaking to her yesterday, police said it was uncertain whether the motive was Mafia vengeance or robbery. The killers were reported to have made the ex-senator, who sat in Parliament till last year, hand over his wallet, then his watch. When he tried to resist, they fired their guns.

Karpov takes time off

Moscow (Reuters) - Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion, took his first time-out yesterday in his title match against Gary Kasparov, postponing the fourth game until tomorrow.

Each player is allowed three time-outs in the series, and the challenger, Mr Kasparov, took his first last Friday, apparently because of a cold. Mr Karpov leads 1-0 after winning the third game on Monday.

Islanders given land rights

Melbourne - The 400 inhabitants of the Cocos Islands, who voted in April to become part of Australia, have been granted land rights by the Federal Government (Tony Duboudin writes).

The Islanders, mainly of Malay descent, voted in a United Nations act of self-determination to join Australia, breaking with the Chulien-Ross family which had ruled the island since 1830.

Argentine officers named in 'dirty war' report

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

A report due to be released today is expected to paint a grim picture of secret kidnappings, torture and murder by Argentina's armed forces during the 1970s during a "dirty war" waged against left-wing guerrillas.

A special commission appointed by President Raúl Alfonsín to investigate the fate of some 10,000 Argentines who "disappeared" under military rule from 1976 to 1983 has compiled a 50,000-page report.

It marks the end of a nine-month investigation by the commission, led by writer Jorge Sabato and made up of prominent lawyers, professionals and human rights activists. It was appointed soon

after President Alfonsín took office in December last year.

Six human rights groups are planning to stage a massive rally and march in Buenos Aires today to mark the conclusion of the Sabato commission's work. But the mothers of Plaza de Mayo, made up solely of mothers of missing persons and perhaps the best known of Argentina's human rights groups, said it would not join the march until it knew what is in the report.

The Sabato commission, has kept tight security before the release of the sensitive report, which is expected to irritate the armed forces.

Among the 50,000 pages are said to be the names of 1,300

military officers allegedly implicated directly or indirectly in the campaign of illegal repression carried out under three successive military juntas after 1976.

The report is expected to include more than 8,700 reports of kidnappings and disappearances received during the past nine months, as well as reports and evidence of some 260 secret concentration camps in Argentina where thousands are believed to have been tortured and killed.

The commission has located and drawn up maps and diagrams of several dozen of these camps, primarily through the testimony of former detainees who survived.

Mexican politicians lead fast

From Bruno López, Mexico City

A group of congressmen, left-wing leaders and Indians have been holding hunger strikes throughout Mexico to put pressure on the Government to account for more than 300 political prisoners and missing people.

Four of them entered their twenty-fifth day of fasting yesterday, leading to fears they might starve to death. "We are just getting constant headaches and our stomachs feel like they are burning... but we can hold out for a while and we plan to," Señor Hector Sánchez, a federal Congressman involved in one

protest group, said. There are four hunger strikes in various Mexican towns and cities at present, with 23 people participating in the protests. So far, they have been unsuccessful in their efforts to force President Miguel de la Madrid to provide information on the fate of 513 political prisoners and others who have vanished in Mexico during the last 14 years.

Compared to El Salvador or Guatemala, where thousands have been kidnapped by security forces, Mexico has a relatively clean record, with only seven people still missing

out of 70 who have been abducted in the past two years by police and soldiers.

Senor Sánchez, two other Congressmen and five left-wing leaders started their strike on September 4 in Mexico City's Legislative Palace and have refused to leave the building.

The group that has been on hunger strike the longest is made up of four Indians and peasants held in jails in the southern states of Salina Cruz and Tehuantepec.

Te authorities have given a low priority to ending the protests.

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Reagan delighted with poll boost and voters' swing to right

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

"It is springtime for America once again," declared President Reagan as he embarked on another of his leisurely one-day flag-waving campaign trips around the country, this time to Connecticut and New Jersey.

Although the weather was crisply autumnal when he arrived in Waterbury, Connecticut, to deliver his first speech of the day, his jauntiness reflected his own exuberance caused by a spate of good election news.

A new poll carried out by New York Times/CBS News showed that his lead over his Democratic challenger, Mr. Walter Mondale, now stands at 21 percentage points.

This compares with the lead which President Johnson had built up over Senator Barry Goldwater in September 1964, and which President Nixon had over Mr. George McGovern in the same month in 1972. Both of those contests turned out to be landslide victories for the incumbents.

One particularly heartening aspect of the new poll for the President is that it shows that his strong personal image is helping him win support even from those who disagree with him on fundamental issues. The poll also reveals that a

growing number of voters have unfavourable opinions of Mr. Mondale and of his running mate, Ms. Geraldine Ferraro.

The strength of the President's image and the popularity he seems to enjoy with most sections of the community were underlined by an upset victory in Tuesday's Republican primary in Massachusetts where Mr. Ray Shamie, a conservative millionaire who campaigned on a platform of unqualified support for Mr. Reagan, trounced his more moderate rival, Mr. Elliot Richardson.

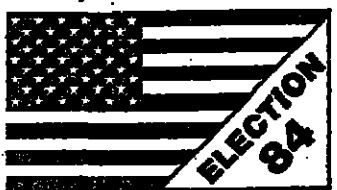
Mr. Richardson, a distinguished public servant, a former ambassador to London and one of the moneyed brachios who had dominated the Republican Party in the New England for decades, saw a 30-point lead in the polls evaporate as Mr. Shamie relentlessly attacked him for being a lukewarm Reaganite.

Mr. Richardson had repudiated the staunchly conservative platform adopted by the Republican national convention in Dallas last month and had refused to pledge that he would never raise taxes.

Mr. Shamie, who made an abortive attempt to unseat Senator Edward Kennedy in the

1982 Congressional elections, will face Lieutenant Governor John Kerry, a liberal who won the Democratic primary, in November. They will contest the seat vacated by Senator Paul Tsongas, a liberal Democrat, who is retiring for health reasons.

President Reagan has also been heartened by initial reaction to two new measures announced on Tuesday aimed at helping farmers and the steel industry.



Farmers, still reeling from the impact of the 1980-1982 economic recession, have been hostile towards the Reagan Administration because of high interest rates and tight credit.

The President's decision, announced just before he makes a campaign trip today to Iowa, the breadbasket of America, to offer a programme of federal loan guarantees and temporary interest subsidies to farmers, has given the farm lobby most

of what it has been clamouring for.

His proposals to help the steel industry, involving a plan to negotiate "voluntary restraint agreements" with countries which have been flooding the United States with cheap steel exports, are less clear-cut. However they have been welcomed by the steel industry as providing at least some of the protection it had been seeking.

Adding to Mr. Reagan's buoyant mood have been the continued problems besetting Mr. Mondale's campaign. Mr. Mondale was loudly booed when he addressed 20,000 students at the University of Southern California after denouncing President Reagan as a "dangerous leader".

Mr. Mondale has had constant harassment from hecklers throughout the campaign. This was not Mr. Reagan's problem yesterday when he urged Democrats to abandon their party.

Although he was speaking in the Democratic heartland, at a site made famous by President John Kennedy during his election campaign in 1960, there were loud cheers when he urged his audience to "walk with us down the new path of hope and opportunity".

Patrician among the peasant voters

Giscard tries common touch

From Diana Geddes, Clermont-Ferrand

Immaculately dressed, as always, M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing sat stiffly behind a rough wooden table, confronted by rows of red peasant faces packed on benches in the tiny upstairs room of the village *Mairie*, while President Mitterrand looked down with awkward benignity from his coloured photograph on the wall, and the rain streamed down on the crows in the muddy street outside.

Set high in the rugged volcanic hills outside Clermont-Ferrand, in the Auvergne, was a Socialist and had decided to absent himself from this momentous occasion. So it fell to another of the villagers to greet the former President of France. "Welcome, you are one of us," he said, to warm applause from the farmers and their wives, and M. Giscard beamed.

That was what he wanted to hear above all else - more than any promise of votes or a show of respect. His political life has been dogged by the charge that he is cold, haughty, aloof, and totally lacking in the common touch. He desperately wants to be "one of the people," to share their sorrows and aspirations, and to show that he cares. "It's a myth I'm out of touch with ordinary people," he insists.

On Sunday, the 74,000 voters of the constituency in the Puy-de-Dôme in which Olby lies, go to the polls in a parliamentary by-election caused by the resignation of Claude Wolff, who quit earlier this month to allow M. Giscard



M. Giscard: Return to full political life

to return to Parliament in his former constituency.

He should have no problems regaining the seat. The Puy-de-Dôme constituency has become almost a family fief. His maternal great-grandfather first won the seat in 1871. He was followed by M. Giscard's grandfather, Jacques Bardeux, from whom M. Giscard took over in 1956, holding the seat without interruption until his election as President in 1974. The family Château de la Verrasse lies in the heart of the constituency.

Bitterly upset by his defeat in the 1981 presidential elections, he did not have the heart to return immediately to political life, so allowed his "substitute", M. Claude Wolff, to stand again for the Puy-de-Dôme in the June, 1981, parliamentary elections. Despite the big nationwide swing to the left, M. Wolff held on to the seat with 52 per cent of the vote.

M. Giscard, joint candidate for both the main opposition

parties, should do substantially better than that on Sunday, despite the "joker" element of the National Front candidate. It would be considered a terrible slap in the face if he failed to get the minimum of 50 per cent required to win the election in the first round.

Although he stood in municipal elections in 1982, when he was returned with 72 per cent of the vote as regional councillor of the Clermont-Ferrand suburb of Chamalières, Sunday's by-election marks his first real return to full political life, and as such is attracting international as well as national attention. Journalists often outnumber spectators as the former President mingles in market places, chats with farmers in villages and stops for a *Kir* in a local bar.

What is at stake is not just his return to Parliament, where a majority of his former supporters in the centre-right UDF party now openly back M. Raymond Barre, his former Prime Minister, in preference to himself, but also his possible return to the presidency.

He has done some heart-searching and has perhaps mellowed a little as a result - there is more warmth now, less stiffness. In his campaign poster, an unusually relaxed and smiling M. Giscard, in an open-necked shirt, is seen against a background of representing modernity and dynamism. Some unkind people are wondering whether the remains of the extinct volcano, which is what the mountain is, will not ultimately prove to be more symbolic.

Four states to monitor Chad deal

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

France and Libya have each chosen two countries to monitor the planned withdrawal of their troops from Chad, which is due to start on September 25, M. Roland Dumas, the French Government's spokesman, announced yesterday.

He declined to say which countries were involved, explaining that France was still waiting for a reply from one of the countries it had chosen.

Asked why the Chad Government had not been informed about the progress of negotiations with Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader prior to the announcement on Monday of the joint agreement for a simultaneous withdrawal of troops, M. Dumas said: "It was normal that France settled this strictly military problem with Libya without taking into account the Chadian problems and without informing the legal (Chad) Government."

Once the Libyan threat was removed, the French no longer had any reason to maintain their military presence there, he added. France had always insisted that the internal political problems in Chad were a matter for the Chadians alone.

M. Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, said yesterday that he had informed President Hissène Habré of the withdrawal of the Libyan and French forces three-quarters of an hour before the publication of the official communiqué. He denied that the Chad President had first learnt of it through the press. *Leading article, page 13*

Harrier's day: The RAF devoted a day of Exercise Lionheart to demonstrating the plane's capabilities

Howe at war - in suede shoes

From Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, Hildesheim, Germany

In a rare departure from his usual prosaic style, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary yesterday clambered down a rough ladder into a bunker dug into a hillside to survey a north German battlefield.

Sir Geoffrey's military experience is limited to his National Service with the Royal Signals in East Africa in the late 1940s.

He had deserted the routine of diplomatic activity to spend the day with British forces engaged in exercise Lionheart. With him was Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who had flown to the exercise after attending a Cabinet meeting in Bonn.

As they peered through the narrow slit of the observation

post, German Leopard tanks in the middle distance trundled along the road toward the village of Sibbesse, just south of Hildesheim, which is in territory held by British forces.

Meanwhile, RAF Harrier aircraft flashed by in low level sorties despite low cloud and mist which earlier in the day had restricted flying activity.

Sir Geoffrey does not naturally blend into the battle scene, his suede shoes contrasting with the combat kit and blackened face of Brigadier Jeremy Blacker, commanding 11 Armoured Brigade.

Sir Geoffrey, Herr Genscher, Lieutenant-General Sir Martin Farndale, commander of 1 British Corps and several others, emerged from the four-

man observation post to hold a press conference in a field.

Asked whether Nato should stock chemical weapons in Europe, Sir Geoffrey refused to comment, beyond saying that chemical weapons were something that the West was working very hard to see outlawed.

He said that while either side had large stocks of chemical weapons it was important to see that they should make every effort to eliminate them.

Herr Genscher regretted that the Warsaw Pact countries had not accepted an invitation to send observers to Exercise Lionheart. If they had done so, they would have been able to learn the purpose and goals the West had in mind.

Seven killed in Rand strike riots

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

At least seven black miners were killed and 470 injured on Monday, Tuesday and early Wednesday in official and unofficial strikes at 11 South African gold mines, which led to riots and violent clashes with police.

By yesterday evening, the violence seemed to have subsided. All but two mines reported they were operating normally. Prolonged disruption would have had a serious effect on the economy, which derives 45 per cent of export earnings from gold.

The worst violence was at the Western Areas mine owned by Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, near Westonaria, south-west of here, where all the deaths occurred and at least 112 miners were injured.

Mine management claimed that police were called after six hours of rioting early on Tuesday morning, during which a miners' hostel was set on fire. Most deaths and injuries, it maintained, were caused by fighting between strikers and non-strikers.

There were smaller disturbances at Western Areas again yesterday morning, and some miners were reported still to be refusing to work. The mine compound was closed to journalists.

In the other mines still affected by strike action, Anglo-Vaal's Hartbeestfontein mine in south-west Transvaal, 1,900 of the 12,000 miners on the day shift reported for work.

The strikes at Hartbeestfontein and Western Areas were unofficial because the National Union of Mineworkers, involved in an official dispute at eight other mines, was not recognized.

The official strike was abandoned on Monday only 24 hours after it had begun, when the union accepted an eleven-hour offer from the Chamber of Mines, the employers' organization.

Before the strike ended, however, there was serious violence at two Anglo-American mines in the Orange Free State, in which more than 250 miners were injured.

Thatcher under fire for Durban fugitives policy

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Government's position on the Durban consulate refugees came under fire yesterday after Mrs Margaret Thatcher refused once more to intervene.

Replying to another appeal from the Labour leader, Mr. Neil Kinnock, the Prime Minister insisted that there was "no role" for the Government in the incident, in which six dissidents have sought sanctuary in the British Consulate to escape from a detention order.

Her refusal to allow a minister to meet representatives of the six who flew to London, drew criticism from Mr. Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, who said she had "taken her stand on the side of apartheid".

The situation in Durban, one week after the drama started, seemed to have resolved into a long stalemate last night, with the fugitives refusing to leave the consulate and the South

African authorities refusing to negotiate terms until they did. The six sent a telex in which they attacked the British Government. Mrs Thatcher's refusal to see their representatives left a "sour taste in the mouth".

The centre of diplomatic activity switches today to Dublin, where the three representatives, led by Mr. Zac Yacoob, a lawyer, are to talk to the Irish Government, which now holds the presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers.

Tomorrow they go to New York and the United Nations, where there is a "strong possibility" that they will see the Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar.

Mr. Yacoob, who saw Cardinal Hume and the Swedish ambassador yesterday, said he was "very unhappy" about the results or lack of results from the delegation's London visit.

Thousands of missiles useless, Congress told

Washington (NYT) - Thousands of Sidewinder and Sparrow air-to-air missiles, the mainstay of the US air combat arsenal, are useless because of defects or maintenance problems, a General Accounting Office investigator told Congress.

About a quarter of the Navy's Sidewinder and a third of its Sparrows were found to be unserviceable for combat use in a recent examination of the Navy's records, according to the investigator. Thousands of Aim9 Sidewinders, a supersonic missile designed to home in on heat emitted by enemy planes, have been produced in various versions for American and Nato forces.

At the Pentagon, a Navy official, asking that he not be identified, contended that the GAO figures represented a smatshot, or spot check, and not a trend.

Although the total number of Sidewinders in the American arsenal is secret, the Pentagon told Congress earlier this year that it plans to acquire nearly 20,000 of the latest Aim9M model in the 1990s.

CRUISE CRASH: A Tomahawk ground-launched cruise missile crashed on a test flight at the Dugway proving ground in Utah, the US Air Force said.

Bandits attack again in Matabeleland

From Jan Raath, Harare

Four black civilians have been killed by guerrillas in western Zimbabwe since the weekend, after a month of relative calm in the area.

Police reported yesterday that dissidents abducted five people near Madhambudzi mission 80 miles west of Bulawayo on Saturday. A pregnant woman and a girl of unknown age were shot dead and a 15-year-old boy was bayoneted. The boy died later in his village. The remaining two men both escaped.

On Monday, an communal land about 30 miles north-west of Gweru, guerrillas shot dead a chairman of the local youth wing of the ruling Zanu party. Earlier in the month a farm worker was shot and all the huts in a farm compound burnt down by dissidents in Nyamandlovu, 25 miles north of Bulawayo.

The same group visited other farms in the area, assaulting workers and looking for active supporters of Zanu.

Meanwhile, newspapers and the national radio have been prevented by a High Court order from referring to the country's ruling party as "Zanu", after a petition by a party of the same name, whose president is the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole.

US ends Suez hunt

From Our Correspondent, Washington

Five American helicopters sent to the Gulf of Suez to search for mines are returning home after failing to find any.

At least 17 ships were damaged by explosions in the Red Sea area between July 9 and August 15, US helicopters are still sweeping the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia to protect Muslims on pilgrimage to Mecca.

The minesweeping operations were not wasted since international shipping interests now knew that all reasonable efforts had been made to ensure the waters were safe, a Pentagon spokesman said.

CAIRO: Egypt has refused passage through the canal to a Lebanese vessel because it was carrying explosives, sources said yesterday in Port Said.

Japanese party HQ gutted by arsonists

Tokyo - The headquarters of the ruling Japanese Liberal Democratic Party was attacked with a flame-thrower and five floors gutted in a fire which burnt for more than two hours (David Watts writes).

A radical left-wing group is suspected of attacking the building from the car park of a nearby Chinese restaurant. Police set up checkpoints throughout Tokyo last night to try to trap the three white-helmeted men believed responsible.

They approached the party headquarters in an express mail lorry and the flames were shot straight into the second floor of the 10 storey building. The fire spread all the way up to the ninth floor before more than 40 fire engines brought it under control. Neither party records nor funds appeared to have been lost and nobody was injured.

A small lorry outside the Israeli Embassy nearby was also set on fire and police believe the two incidents are related.

Two jailed for tree felling

Nairobi (AFP) - Two school governors, whose arrest was ordered by President Daniel arap Moi for "indiscriminately" felling trees on a school compound, were jailed for two months each.

When the President paid a surprise visit to their school, he discovered that 250 gum trees had been cut down.

Ethiopia aid - The European Community has given Ethiopia food aid worth nearly \$2m to help fight the effects of drought. The gift consists of 18,000 tonnes of wheat, 1,400 tonnes of milk powder and 500 tonnes of edible oil.

DeLoreans part



Los Angeles (Reuter) - Mr John DeLoe's separation from his wife, the model Christina Ferrare (above), is on a trial basis and "no one is talking of divorce". Mr DeLoe's lawyer said. The former carmaker was recently acquitted on a drugs charge and "the pressures apparently became too much for them", he added.

Ali in hospital

The former heavyweight boxing champion, Muhammad Ali, aged 42, was admitted to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York for tests and evaluations. A spokesman refused to discuss a report from Luxembourg which quoted the boxer's doctor as saying that Ali seemed to have "a slight case of Parkinson's Disease".

Nuclear ban

Wellington (Reuter) - New Zealand's Labour Government gave support to a bill seeking to ban nuclear-powered vessels and nuclear weapons from the country. Mr Frank O'Flynn, the Defence Minister, said the private member's Bill was in accord with government policy.

Australia next

Nice (Reuter) - The American balloonist, Colonel Joe Kittinger, was planning another daredevil exploit only hours after making aviation history by flying solo across the Atlantic. His next project will be a similar flight across Australia in the middle of next year.

Afghan ambush

Jacques Abochar, aged 53, a French television reporter in a secret assignment in Afghanistan, has been wounded and is believed captured by Soviet troops after an ambush, according to French sources in Quetta, Pakistan.

Drugs seized

Vienna (AP) - In the biggest Austrian drug find in memory, narcotics agents seized 45lb of heroin valued at nearly \$3m from a vehicle attempting to cross into West Germany near Salzburg.

Dispute ends

Lisbon (Reuter) - A five-day strike by Portugal's 5,000 dockers ended after talks between management and unions. The strike was in protest against a police presence

First sextuplets

Ankara - Turkey's first known sextuplets were born yesterday at the Aegean port of Izmir. Three boys and a girl survived.

Correction

Mr Brian Mulrooney, Mr George Hees and Mr Duffy Robin were not members of the last Conservative Government in Canada, as stated in the Cabinet list yesterday.

Philippine abuses condemned

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Any idea that the lifting of martial law in the Philippines and the recent elections heralded a new dawn of democracy is dispelled by the conclusions of a 124-page report issued yesterday by the International Commission of Jurists.

It is the work of Professor Virginia Leary (New York), Mr Anthony Ellis (New Zealand) and Dr Kurt Madlener (West Germany), who visited the country.

The found widespread human rights abuses by the Army and police in rural areas - particularly Mindanao - including killings, massacres, burning of villages, arbitrary arrest and institutionalized torture, especially during incommunicado detention.

Their report underlines that the killing of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader, in August last year, "was but one among many others of less well-known figures in a pattern of political killings".

The jurists had access to top government members, but this is regarded by the commission as part of the facade of democracy.

WASHINGTON: The Reagan administration expressed grave concern over rising communist insurgency in the Philippines and urged Congress to approve its full 1985 military aid request for the Marcos government (Reuter reports).

Eight-day sea trip on a tyre

Miami (AP) - A man floating on the inner-tube of a tyre reached Florida after an "incredible" eight-day journey from Cuba during which rough seas nearly drowned him, jellyfish stung his arms and sharks nuzzled his flimsy vessel.

Carlos Saavedra's skin was sun-scorched, his arms showed numerous stings and his feet were numb and swollen. He said he fled Cuba to avoid serving in its military forces.

Spain's architectural heritage

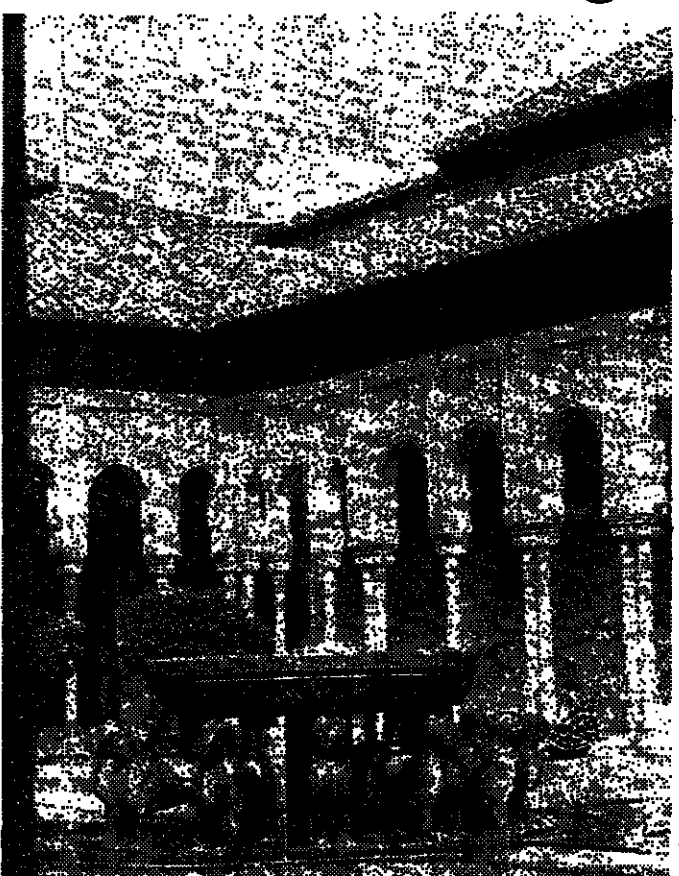
Andalusia bans Alhambra housing

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Alhambra, the Moorish walled palace in Granada dating from before the Reconquest and the adjacent Generalife Gardens are to be saved from a luxury housing development which would have overlooked the historic buildings and the city below. Andalusia's autonomous regional government, which recently acquired responsibility for the Alhambra from the Culture Ministry in Madrid, stepped in after Granada City Corporation had granted building permission on privately owned land nearby. It also dismissed four of its representatives on a local historic buildings board, including Señor Antonio Gallego, an architect holding the official post of keeper of the Alhambra.

Andalusia has decided to extend the protected area of the complex order to include the wooded Sabika Hill to the north, which commands splendid views of the Alhambra as well as Granada down in the valley.

This will stop one of Andalusia's largest construction companies from developing a £14m scheme on the site of a fourteenth-century sultan's palace, which has since disappeared.



Peace preserved: The Alhambra's Patio of the Lions

French doctors draw up 'right to die' manifesto

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

Five French doctors have drawn up an unprecedented manifesto in which they admit having helped terminal patients to die and declare that they are ready to do so again.

The manifesto is to be presented to doctors attending a four-day international conference, organized by the Federation of Associations for the Right to Die in Dignity, in the hope of obtaining as many signatures as possible. The conference opens in Nice today.

The manifesto states: "The undersigned medical doctor... Convinced that the request of a living being who suffers cannot be ignored, and that to respect his or her life is also to respect

the conditions of his or her death.

"Declares that the time has come, through medical training and the institution of suitable means, to reply to the demand for a better quality of the last part of someone's life, and for a death with dignity and without suffering."

It goes on to state that the doctor declares he or she has "been led to help terminal patients and their lives in the least unfavourable conditions possible". He or she declares "that he is ready to broach with patients, at their request, the question of their death, and to consider with them the means to ensure them an end as free

from suffering and pain as possible."

There are an estimated 500,000 members of associations promoting "the right to die in dignity" in the world.

Another pressing problem of medical ethics was revealed here yesterday with the revelation that a 21-year-old married woman had agreed for the first time in France to act as a paid "surrogate mother" for a couple who are unable to have children.

The woman, whose identity is being kept secret, is already three months pregnant after having been artificially inseminated with the sperm of the husband.

There is as yet no ruling in

France governing such cases. However, M. Edmond Hervé, Minister of Health, said last October that they raised "serious ethical, moral and legal questions", adding that the Government was "studying the problems posed by this practice and the measures which might be taken to bring it to an end".

After nearly a year of waiting Dr Sacha Gellert, founder of the Centre for the Practical Exploration and Study of Reproduction and President of the Surrogate Mothers Association created by him in 1983, decided to go ahead with the first surrogate pregnancy in the absence of any word from the Government.

Spain and budget dispute face EEC with a three-day deadline

From Ian Murray, Brussels

From this morning only three and a half official working days are left to prepare the trickiest parts of one of the longest and most difficult negotiations in the history of the EEC. On the success of the work depends the date of Spanish and Portuguese entry into the Community and as a direct consequence, whether Britain ends its long-running battle over the Community budget.

Money asks all the questions inextricably. The Community must be allowed to raise more cash if it is to develop and if it is to have enough available to ease Britain's level of payments. Without extra income it seems doomed to stagnate.

But West Germany, the Community main paymaster, is determined that it will not pay more until Spain and Portugal are safely in as members. Britain, too, sees enlargement as a major reason for permitting higher contributions and The Netherlands thinks in much the same way.

So the enlargement negotiations must be completed before the budget mess can be sorted out. This week's Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels agreed that it must try to do so when it next meets on October 1 and 2. If it fails, the Community will run short of

money this year and the recommitments are likely to shake it to its foundations.

The negotiations have been going on for more than six years now - and much has been concluded. Inevitably, the most difficult dossiers remain.

Foreign ministers pass them back this week to officials who are working against the clock to complete the papers by the middle of next week, when they must be ready for EEC ambassadors to study before the foreign ministers meet again.

Negotiations with Portugal are all but complete and might be ready on time if they could be conducted in isolation. But the outstanding issues with Spain are dangerously large and complicated. For the most part the EEC countries have yet to agree a common position on them even to open discussions with the Spaniards.

Agriculture inevitably poses the biggest problem. There are three main categories - olive oil, wine, fruit and vegetables.

Estimates show that, if Spain joined the Community, nearly 25 per cent more olive oil would be produced than would be consumed. Unless production were controlled the surplus would cost about £650m a year to dispose of. The officials are trying to work out a system of production thresholds so that

the Community need not pay for excess production.

There has been a long argument on wine with France pressing for a quota system, while the Commission wants to impose a price freeze and pay money to help growers " grub out " vineyards to convert them to other crops. The argument is to be resumed by farm ministers on October 4 in Luxembourg.

The fruit and vegetable argument has in most respects been sorted out on the EEC side. Members want Spain to agree a 10-year transitional period divided into two. For the first four years Spain would have no access for its products to the rest of the Community, while it would have to accept northern products like milk and beef. Over the final six years Spain would gradually gain access to other EEC markets.

Spain, however, is far from happy about a scheme which keeps it out of EEC markets while forcing it to buy EEC products at considerably higher prices than it pays at present. France, on the other hand, wants even stricter monitoring and control on any Spanish import. That argument is still at official level.

Britain's main worry concerns Spain's high tariff wall on industrial goods.



Top of the agenda: Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, arrives in New York to address the UN General Assembly; and (right) the assembly president, Mr Lusaka, flanked by Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General

Apartheid denounced as Zambian takes UN chair

From Zdziana Pysarivsky New York

The thirty-ninth session of the UN General Assembly has convened here with calls for a new vision in world affairs and a search for ways of improving the organization's ability to defend political and economic crisis.

Mr Paul Lusaka of Zambia was chosen by acclamation as the assembly's president, and he attempted to set the tone by urging less rhetoric, fewer resolutions and more effective action.

The candidate of the African group, whose turn it is this year to assume the presidency, he singled out apartheid as the most odious crime against humanity. Pretoria must be made to feel the extent of international displeasure, he said.

Although Mr Lusaka's annual term will carry few substantive powers, he can

influence the direction and intensity of debates. He succeeds Señor Jorge Illueca of Panama who had the distinction of being the first to serve simultaneously as president of his country and the assembly.

For the next three months, the assembly will deal with issues ranging from chemical weapons, the Middle East and preparations for the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the UN, which takes place next year.

Sakharov issue puts Russians in a rage

From Christopher Mosley Stockholm

The Soviet Union has accused the United States of trying to sabotage the Stockholm peace conference by raising the case of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident Soviet physicist, and seeking to link the issue of human rights in the Soviet Union with European security.

In a speech to the conference on Tuesday, Mr James Goodby, head of the American delegation, said fears for the well being of Dr Sakharov and his wife, Elena Bonner, were as acute now as they had been in the spring.

He appealed to the 34 countries taking part in the conference to reconsider a letter distributed to their delegations here in May with a resolution from the United States Congress calling for the Sakharovs to be granted permission to leave the Soviet Union live in the land of their choice.

Mr Goodby said that, while he was not seeking to "inscribe the subject of human rights" on the conference agenda, "confidence can be undermined and tension can arise from failures in these areas and not only from issues of military security".

The American speech brought an angry reaction from Mr Oleg Grinevsky, head of the Soviet delegation.

Bonn to impose car exhaust clean-up

Bonn (Reuters) - The West German Cabinet decided yesterday that all new motor vehicles must be fitted with anti-pollution devices from January 1, 1989.

Vehicles with engine capacities exceeding two litres will have to meet the new standards a year earlier.

The devices are catalytic converters which, used with lead-free petrol, drastically cut exhaust emissions, the cause of more than half the air-borne pollution that has extensively damaged forests and buildings.

Bonn's decision to go it alone puts pressure on other car and lorry makers in the European Community, whose policy-making Commission has so far proposed making the devices compulsory only by 1995.

Lead-free petrol is more expensive than conventional leaded petrol, but the West German measures will adjust excise duties to level out prices.

The standards adopted by Bonn have long been in force in the United States and Japan. They are expected to be passed by the Bundestag, where the coalition Government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl has a comfortable majority.

From mid-1985 West Germany will also introduce incentives for buyers of vehicles fitted with the anti-pollution devices.

Details have still to be worked out by individual states, but they will include temporary suspension of road taxes and possibly direct subsidies to the buyers. Taxes would be raised for the owners of vehicles with conventional exhausts.

Independent experts estimate that the devices, which include coatings of expensive platinum, cost up to £400. But the price would be brought down by mass production. European manufacturers already have to fit them on cars destined for the United States.

1,000 battle with police in Seoul

Seoul (Reuters) - More than 1,000 students are young workers calling for the resignation of President Chun Doo Hwan clashed with riot police in central Seoul yesterday.

The protesters, who also demanded the abolition of South Korea's labour laws, which they regard as restrictive, threw stones at riot police who tried to disperse them with tear gas, eye-witnesses said. Scores of workers and students were detained by police.

During the 30-minute clash, the demonstrators set fire to two wooden rubbish cans and smashed windows of two police buses, but no casualties were immediately reported.

There have been growing claims by some workers that government economic policies were benefiting big corporations at the expense of labourers. Strikes are virtually banned in South Korea.

NORTH AGREES: In a surprisingly swift response, North Korea has agreed to South Korean conditions for the delivery of flood relief goods to the South (David Wans writes from Tokyo).

On Tuesday South Korea said a further meeting to discuss the proposed assistance was conditional upon North Korean acceptance that relief goods being brought by road must be delivered to the Panmunjom peace village in the demilitarized zone. North Korea had insisted earlier that they be taken all the way to Seoul by lorry.

Meanwhile, President Kim Il Sung has spoken publicly for the first time of North Korea's desire to end the confrontation with the South and with the United States. He was speaking at a reception for Mr Masashi, the Japanese chairman of the Japan Socialist Party.

Shultz's surprise gift

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

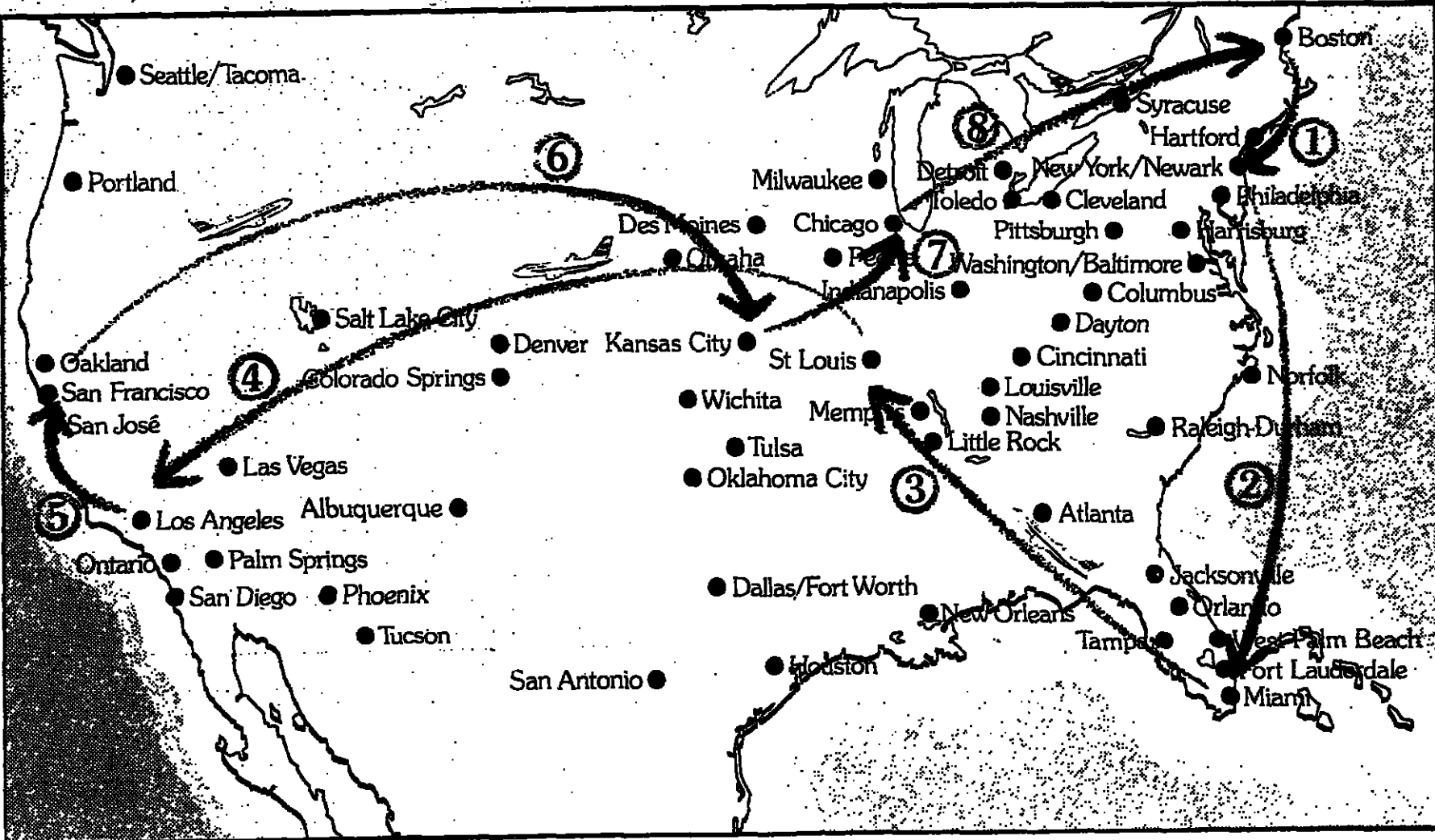
Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, in an attempt to cushion the strain on US-Soviet relations, has given Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet ambassador, a surprise gift - a new chair adorned with the state Department seal.

Three months ago Mr Dobrynin admired a set of five black wooden chairs in Mr Shultz's office, commemorating his

government posts and his service in the US marines.

The State Department said that Mr Shultz, paid for the chairs himself and presented it to Mr Dobrynin on Monday when the ambassador called in preparation for President Reagan's meeting here with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, on September 28.

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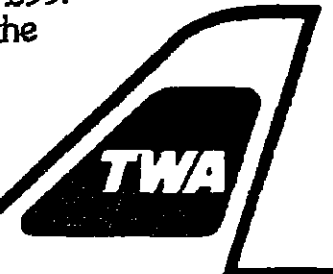
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SPECTRUM

The man who caught the world unawares

The Times Profile: Henri Cartier-Bresson

HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON is so famous that many people today believe he is dead. It has happened before: he was also thought to have perished in the Second World War. The 76-year-old French photographer has always taken a mischievous pleasure in such tales of his premature demise, and on the former occasion was delighted to have the distinction of collaborating with the Museum of Modern Art in New York when they staged a "posthumous" exhibition of his work in 1946.

With the recent deaths of Ansel Adams and Bill Brandt, he remains, with André Kertész and Henri Lartigue, one of an older generation of photographers whose development coincided with the revolution in fine art in the first two decades of this century. For the last decade, however, he has been seen rarely in public and his absence has been accompanied by rumours that he has abandoned photography altogether.

He has certainly been busy in other fields of endeavour. One of his rare appearances in the public eye took place recently at the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford when he arrived - apparently as fit as a man half his age - to attend the opening of the first exhibition in this country of his paintings and drawings, both of which revealed an entirely new sensibility.

The photographer Don McCullin was plainly surprised: "It was as if a second personality had emerged. No one expects a man of his years and reputation suddenly to down tools and begin again from scratch. You could hardly imagine that Cartier-Bresson the photographer had ever existed." The critics greeted the exhibition with silence.

'It was Henri's ambition to be invisible behind the camera. He has even been known to deny his identity and hates to be photographed'

Cartier-Bresson, who now lives comfortably and quietly with his second wife, the photographer Martine Franck, in a fashionable district of Paris close to the Louvre, has pursued anonymity throughout a career spanning 50 years, partly out of innate shyness, partly as a practical working method. It was his ambition to be invisible behind the camera, and in his quest for anonymity he has even been known to deny his identity. Ironically he hates being photographed.

The American photographer Joe Meyerowitz describes in his book *Cape Cod* an odd encounter at the St Patrick's Day parade in New York 20 years ago: "I saw a man jumping around, bobbing and weaving, twisting and turning, dancing... I went over and said: 'Excuse me, you are Henri Cartier-Bresson?' He said: 'No! no! I'm not Cartier-Bresson. Are you the police?'"

Meyerowitz introduced himself all the same, then watched as a drunk tried to take Cartier-Bresson's camera from him: "He threw the camera at the man's face, but the

camera was tied to his wrist. The man fell backwards without being hit. Cartier-Bresson hauled the camera in like a yo-yo, whirled around - his trenchcoat did a ballet spin around his body - and off he went like Groucho Marx. Cartier-Bresson was gone. He was invisible."

His shyness is accompanied by a natural modesty that success has not altered. Arriving late for the Hayward Gallery opening of the 1978 Arts Council Cartier-Bresson retrospective, for instance, he was upbraided by an attendant: "I'm sorry, sir, no cameras allowed." Meekly, he deposited his Leica in the cloakroom.

Using the lightweight, hand-held Leica, Cartier-Bresson extended the emotional range of photo-journalism, developing a style of candid outdoor "human interest" photography initiated by André Kertész and popularized by Felix Mann and Erich Salomon. Whereas the German photo-essayists were social reformers, using text to back up their pictures, in France a more intimate photography emerged in the 1930s, concerned with the private experience of everyday life, and Cartier-Bresson selected instants beyond the range of ordinary sight.

Picnic on the Banks of the Marne, taken in 1938, is Cartier-Bresson's most expressive early photograph: there is no more powerful image of contentment in the history of photography. Indeed, the most potent images of this early period concentrate on such moments of repose or ceremony, but tiny idiosyncrasies of look or behaviour reveal his subjects' inner disturbance. This technique was a radical departure from the work of his contemporaries. The late Bill Brandt defined the subtle class distinctions of pre-war Britain; the photographer Brassai revelled in the seamy conviviality of the Parisian demi-monde; but, while Brandt and Brassai often revealed their presence or organized the scene for best effect, Cartier-Bresson kept his distance. His subjects appear innocently unaware of his presence.

The publication in 1952 of *Images à la Sauvette* (The Decisive Moment) marked the zenith of this style. The book reflects Cartier-Bresson's life as an itinerant photographer in Europe, America, China and Egypt. Two years later he was the first photographer to be admitted to the USSR during the thaw following Stalin's death.

Yet his rise to the point where he is generally regarded as the genius of photography in this century was not the result of a single-minded ambition. Through restless experiment his career might have taken off in two widely different directions - painting or film-making. In 1935 he had spent a year in the United States learning about the film industry, and on his return to France the director Jean Renoir (son of the painter) offered him the post of Second Assistant on the film *Partie de Campagne*, which became a classic of pre-war French cinema. Then, working on his own, Cartier-Bresson made *L'histoire de la Vie* in 1937, a documentary on the hospitals of Republican Spain during the Civil War.

This cinematic apprenticeship was brought to a halt by the outbreak of war in Europe. His military service was brief. He was captured by the Germans and imprisoned. Three years later, after two attempts, he finally managed to escape. A fellow-prisoner asked what he would do once the war was over.



For once Henri Cartier-Bresson is caught by the camera, sketching with painter Jean Max Toubeau. Photograph by Cartier-Bresson's second wife Martine Franck

Without hesitation Cartier-Bresson replied that he would not become a film-maker or photographer, but a painter.

But it was not to be. Working in the underground resistance movement, he devoted himself to assisting the escape of others. In 1944 he photographed the liberation of Paris and directed *Le Retour*, a documentary on the homecoming of prisoners of war. However, he then returned to his first love, the still camera.

As a photographer, he treats the large themes of politics and social upheaval at a domestic level. War in Germany and its aftermath - the displacement of families and destruction of homes - were covered in *The Europeans* in 1955, his second major publication. He was also a reformer in his own profession. In 1947 with Robert Capa, David Seymour and George Rodger he founded the legendary Paris co-operative agency Magnum Photos (so-called after a bottle of champagne) which was followed by

tragedy when Seymour was killed in action in Suez in 1956 and Capa was blown up by a land mine at Thai-Binh in Indo-China. In 1966 Cartier-Bresson left Magnum.

It was his publishers' editor, Teriade, who told him after the publication of *The Decisive Moment* that he had achieved all that was possible in photography. To continue would be to repeat himself. It was now time to return to his original calling as a painter.

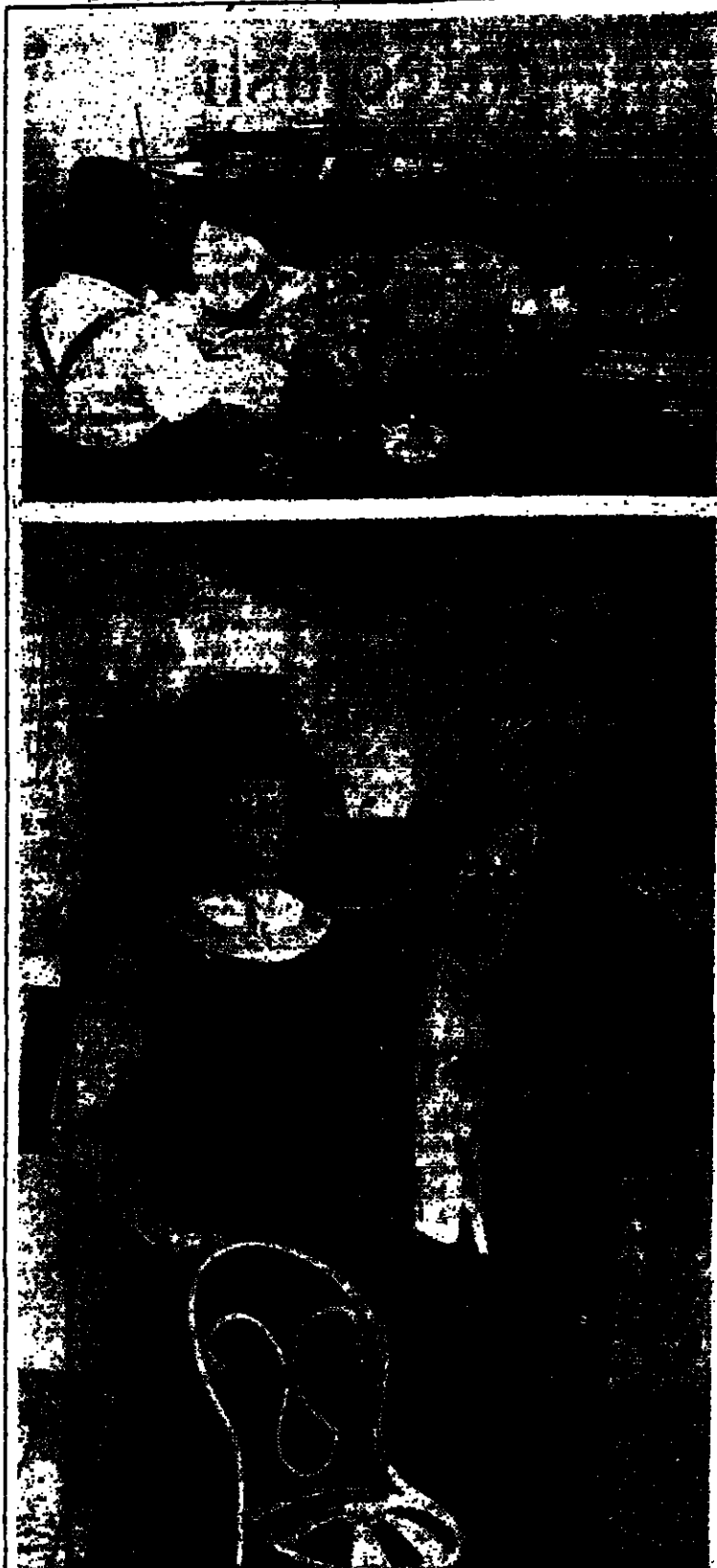
In 1927 he had studied in the Paris studio of the Cubist painter André Lhote. The following year was spent in Cambridge. *Couple*, a painting of this period, portrays his landlady and a young man, possible Cartier-Bresson himself.

But he was unhappy with his skills as a draftsman, and destroyed many early works - (fortunately his mother preserved several paintings and drawings, which came to light after her death 12 years ago). In his recent paintings and drawings, a quite different temperament is on display. There are

landscape drawings, nervous and spiky in the manner of Giacometti; studies of animal forms from the Natural History Museum in Paris; cool and restrained paintings in the intimate style of Bonnard and Vuillard. He is no genius of the canvas: rather, he proposes himself in his mid-seventies as a competent exponent of a variety of styles.

Subtle pencil portraits of friends hint at the direction his photography might have taken had he cared to use a studio. But in photography, artificiality of any kind is anathema, flying in the face of the essential moment of choice: "Manufactured or staged photography does not concern me. For me the camera is a sketch book, an instrument of intuition and spontaneity. To give meaning to the world one has to feel oneself involved in what is framed through the viewfinder. To take photographs is to hold one's breath when all faculties converge in the face of fleeting reality."

Rory Coonan



Cartier-Bresson's most famous photograph, *The Banks of the Marne*, 1938, (top) and an early painting, *Couple*, 1928

Henri Cartier-Bresson

Born August 22, 1908 in Chanteloup, son of André and Marthe (née Leverdier) Cartier-Bresson. Studies Ecole Fenech and Lycée Condorcet, Paris.

1929 Studied painting in Madrid and New York.
1931 Began photography.
1933 First exhibitions Madrid and New York.
(Following exhibitions are just a selection of his many throughout the world.)
1936-39 Assistant director to Jean Renoir.
1940-43 Prisoner of war, escaped.
1946 Founded the Magnum-Photos agency with Capa Chim and Rodger.
1948 Exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.
1954 The Louvre (Pavillon de Marston).
1958-64 Various major photographic and drawing exhibitions.
1969 The Victoria and Albert Museum.
1970 Grand Palais, Paris.
1975 Overseas Press Club award: D.Lit. Oxford University.
1978 Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.
Hayward Gallery, London.
Victoria and Albert.
1981 Various documentary films; Grand Prix National.
1982 Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris; Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City.

Musée d'Histoire Naturelle, March 1975

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The buzz that you get on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, especially if you are performing there, cannot really be described to someone who does not know it. Certainly not to someone who has only seen Edinburgh outside Festival time. It is like trying to describe the buzz of New York, the non-stop activity of India or the stupidity of the English licensing laws. They all have to be experienced.

I have often broken this law myself, by going to see productions in London which had knocked me out in Edinburgh and finding that the effectiveness had diminished somewhere en route. Indeed, the Oxford revue of 1963, in the pit band of which I played double bass, was so headily successful up there that Michael White transferred us straight to London at the Phoenix Theatre, where we enjoyed two weeks of disaster.

What had seemed so wonderful on a small stage in the Royal Mile became quite lost in an aeroplane bangor with seats fitted. Within two months of leaving Oxford my show biz career was already over.

Since then I have revisited London several shows that I was bowled over by in Edinburgh - Chris Langham's one-man show, American mime Bob Berk, Mike Maran and Dave Sheppard's two-man show *West Ham v Hearts* - and on

Success fizzles beyond the fringe

moreover...
Miles Kington

each occasion the quality was still amply there but the magic had gone. And it is a sort of magic; even the bad shows in Edinburgh are memorably awful. You find yourself, too, going to things you'd never dream of going to in London - I remember about six years ago slipping into Greyfriars Church for a concert of Holst and Elgar by an Edinburgh brass band and being absolutely transfixed as I never have since either by brass music or by Elgar.

The lesson was obvious. Edinburgh is an optical illusion which cannot be recreated anywhere else and it's no use trying to tell people about it, only trying to get them to go there.

I would not be telling you all this if it were not for the fact that this week I have changed my mind. I have been to a theatre in London which did, incredibly, have the smell of Edinburgh about it. Perrier (who, after all, have great experience of transporting fizz long distances without losing any of it) have taken the gamble of presenting four weeks of top Fringe shows from this year's Festival at the Donmar Warehouse in Earlham Street, and at the opening night on Monday I really felt I was in a small back street somewhere up from Holyrood House.

They have not made the

mistake of hiring a plush theatre. Instead, they have decided to put, on three shows a night in a small fringe theatre and thus recreate all the things that make the Fringe the Fringe: the panicky change-overs between shows, the queues wondering if they will get seats, the mob round the bar, the smell of worry, about success or failure, the sense of excitement as failure recedes... Above all, they have given their main Fringe award to the Brass Band.

This is a brass quintet from California who play their instruments like geniuses and clown around with all the energy of the Marx Brothers and, most of the time, all their invention. Their reverence for the music (all by the great composers) is unquestioned; their irreverence for everything else is equally so.

When Julian Bowes of Perrier stepped forward to give his serious presentation speech, the Brass Band were round him in a flash in an impromptu imitation of a press gang, using their instruments as cameras, getting him to pose, making it impossible for him to even approach seriousness.

The evening also included *Still Life*, a three-hander play

about post-Victorian angst (very good but rather morbidly introspective in the American manner) and a late show by Fascinating Aida, a very talented three-woman singing group, like Sweet Substitut, with added bite and satire, as well as loads of laff. After six hours I staggered out into the midnight air exhausted but still on a high: very Edinburgh, that feeling. I learnt as I left that the Brass Band, during their show, had had all their money and pass-

ports stolen from the dressing room. Disaster in the midst of success; I suppose that's quite Edinburgh too. The Brass Band are on till the end of next week, and there are seven other productions due in the four week season which ends Oct 13. But go and see the Brass Band first. Last year in this space I mentioned that they were my favourite acts in Edinburgh; incredibly, that was the only mention they received in the national press! Mention of this column's name, incidentally, entitles you to buy tickets at the full price.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 450)

ACROSS
8 Betrayer (6,7)
9 Corporal, sergeant (11,11)
10 Without humour (9)
11 Operatic solo (5)
13 Leader (7)
16 Presentious (7)
19 Drilled (5)
22 Left-handed (9)
24 Grain spirit (3)
25 Junk dealer (3,3,4,3)

DOWN
1 Handsome youth (6)
2 Upstart (6)
3 Graphite (8)
4 Burn (6)
5 Lepidoptera insect (7)

6 High regard (6)
7 Originated (6)
12 Dove call (3)

14 Walking about (8)
15 Welcome (3)
16 Pie crust (6)
17 Run (6)

18 Clerk (6)
19 System (6)
20 Eating dinner (6)
21 Kitchen basin (4)

SOLUTION TO No 449
ACROSS: 1 Mignon 4 Hijack 7 Lear 8 Opulence 9 Pandemic 13 Tie 16 On the sprints 17 Ere 19 Saw edged 24 Terrazzo 25 Ibox 26 Myopic 27 Hoaxed
DOWN: 1 Mull 2 Guarantee 3 Noose 4 Houri 5 Jeep 6 Cocci 10 Dress 11 Macaw 12 Crowd 13 Tinderbox 14 Chex 15 Mole 18 Reedy 20 Anzac 21 Epoch 22 Prop 23 Aced

THE ARTS

As *Big in Brazil* opens at the Old Vic, Irving Wardle examines the farce revival

Falling trousers gatecrash the West End

The arrival of *The Happiest Days of Your Life* and *A Little Hotel on the Side* at the Barbican and the Olivier has reopened the old question of what yesterday's boulevard fodder is doing on our subsidised stages while so many world masterpieces are gathering dust on the shelves. The general opinion seems to be that the National Theatre revival was a good idea and that the RSC's was not, even if things had been all right on the ill-fated first night: Feydeau being an OK name, and John Dighton merely happening to have written *The Happiest Days*.

I remember a time when the authors of *Rookery Nook* and *See How They Run* were likewise lumped together among the despised purveyors of "basic British farce". Feydeau was OK even in those days provided the Comédie Française brought him over, chaperoned by Racine. But the native product from Pinero to the Whitehall repertoire aroused lordly "coach party" sneers, and the idea of such work gracing the stage of any forceable National Theatre would have hit the deck faster than Brian Rix's trousers.

The farce revival, begun in the late 1950s, changed all that. Key events were Alec Guinness's appearance in *Hotel Paradiso*, *A Little Hotel* under another title - and the near-simultaneous arrival of Sartre's *Nekrassov* at the Unity Theatre, whence it emerged that farce was worth the attention of a great English actor, and also that it was intellectually respectable. The examples were still French, but in conjunction with other factors - such as the Royal Court revival of Ben Travers's *A Cuckoo in the Nest* and the writings of farce's master advocate, Eric Bentley - the way was opened for a comeback in which even British writers could participate.

To say that farce thus returned to favour would be an understatement. It was transformed from a poor relation to a theatrical grandee.

claiming a lineage from the Jacobins and the Greeks, and backed up with a firm aesthetic.

It was the counterpart of tragedy, dealing with respected and upright citizens thrust into extreme situations and seeing their familiar world going mad, like an overturned sports car with its road wheels racing in the air. *Othello*, it was noted, would make a perfect farce; and the first prerequisite for a farcical actor was the total lack of a sense of humour. And so on. There were still no clear definitions of tragedy and comedy, but anybody would give you a rundown on the art of farce.

These prescriptions were duly confirmed in Jacques Charon and John Mortimer's 1963 version of *A Flea in Her Ear* which took the National Theatre audience by storm. Pinero came back into fashion, closely followed by his still productive disciple, Ben Travers; and by a crop of young writers to whom Travers's great days as king of the Aldwych farces were a distant legend.

The odd thing is that this development happened at a time when farce was getting increasingly hard to write (always assuming it had ever been easy). If there is anything funny in a falling pair of trousers it is that the owner is keen to keep them on; a hard thing to get across in the days of streaking and string-pullers. When Travers made his octogenarian comeback with two new plays - *The Bed Before Yesterday* and *After You With the Milk* - he gave up farce in favour of domestic comedy, incorporating sexual acts and opinions he had been obliged to soft-pedal when he was rolling Tom Wallis's pre-war customers in the aisles. He may have resented the taboos, but they enabled him to write *Rookery Nook* and *Banana Ridge*.

Farce in the 1960s had to discover a new set of taboos, otherwise the famous "death of tragedy" was likely to be accompanied by the demise of its comic opposite.



Farcical fare: Leonard Rossiter, Patrick O'Connell and Gemma Craven in the Ambassadors production of *Loor*; and right, Graeme Garden and Deborah Norton in *A Little Hotel on the Side*

number. We all know what happened. Farce developed a consuming interest in crime, blasphemy, sexual deviation and death; whereupon it was pronounced to be "growing up".

There is no denying that this launched it on a fresh lease of life and yielded some brutally funny plays. As a side-effect, though, it also bred an attitude of farcical snobbery alien to the old popular spirit of the Aldwych and the Whitehall. It was seen as less important for farce to excite laughter than to be breaking new ground. One Old Vic double bill bracketed Feydeau with Wedekind under the title "The Frontiers of Farce". They were merciless modernizations of old plays, spiced up with permissive dialogue. Open the Olivier programme for *A Little Hotel on the Side* and you will find Feydeau being praised for his success in anticipating Joe Orton.

The miracle of farce, I believe, is that it presents a spectacle of human greed, cruelty and lies which sends you out of the theatre feeling the world is a good place. Charon's production of *A Flea in Her Ear* did this: so does Jonathan Lynn's current Olivier production; and so do the plays of Ben Travers. A rigid distinction is customarily made between the French province of pooping the stage with fanatically lusty egotists, and the English preference for the company of amiable, easily embarrassed wimps. The invitation to share the characters' embarrassment, I agree, is the

bane of British farce. Much more important, though, is the factor, common to classical farce in both countries, of showing the audience a reflection of themselves. And when farce began to "grow up" it was at the expense of this bond.

Like many another development, the change dates back to Shaw - who, on his own admission, was not much of a farceur. He wrote only one farce, *The Philanderer*, which he subsequently disowned as "mechanical filth". This did not prevent him from entertaining strong opinions on the form. Take the episode of the runaway pig in *John Bull's Other Island*. One of the characters wants to know why everybody is laughing at this story of a market being wrecked and an animal run over. "Why not?" one of them answers. "There is danger, destruction, torment! What more do we want to make us merry?"

The speaker is a mystic called Keegan, who elsewhere in the play describes the world we live in as hell. Farce on his terms becomes an entertainment laid on by the damned to heighten the paradisaical pleasure of the angelic hosts looking on in safety from their heavenly auditorium. From Shaw to Orton, the sense of human complicity disappears.

We now have an outfit in London, the Theatre of Comedy, which presents Shaw and Orton (not to mention a string of sulphurous later writers), and which happens to be run by a former Whitehall

playwright-director, Ray Cooney. And it is one sign of the changes that have overtaken the British comic stage that old laughter-merchants like Travers and John Dighton are getting the *cher maître* treatment from our great national companies while yesterday's avant garde is being taken up by the West End. When I drew attention to this, in reviewing the Barbican show, it was pointed out to me that the Theatre of Comedy lacked the resources for big-cast revivals and that most of its work consisted of co-productions. *Loor* therefore becomes commercial material by virtue of its cast of six; whereas *The Happiest Days of Your Life* proves its cultural credentials by demanding 13 actors.

I am sorry if that sounds sardonic, but it is only to emphasize that the same argument can be turned inside out. If the old farces are too big for the commercial theatre in terms of set-changes, period costume and size of company, they are apt to be too small for the RSC and the National in terms of content.

Clearly this restriction does not apply to Feydeau, a comic giant capable of filling an available space. But it does apply to Ben Travers. *Plunder*, for instance, is a beautiful piece of work, in which he pursued his method of presenting ordinary, truthfully observed people in extreme situations to the length of inviting the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to vet his handling of police procedure. But when the play



arrived at the National Theatre there was a strong feeling that it had been chosen as a farce that showed meritorious signs of "growing up" (as it admits death and the threat of hanging).

As for *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, perhaps Clifford Williams's production has so far reversed the opening-night impression as to prove Mr Dighton a British Feydeau, and erase the memory of the St Trinian's films lately exhumed on television to exhibit the Dighton joke in its last stages of decrepitude.

My feeling on the night was that the production would have to do more than get into its stride to release a small, well-constructed play from the weight of leaden direction and the grandiose main-house lumber of a castled set and the humorless complication of framing the play inside a school concert (backed up by the RSC's Wind Ensemble). It is one thing for the subsidized theatre to pay its respects to the old farce tradition, and another for it to gate-crash the West End party for *Daisy Pulls It Off*.

Theatre

Still Life

Donmar Warehouse

As corporate sponsorship generally seems to be dictated by the taste of chairmen's wives and the fear of offending foreign buyers, I take my hat off to Perrier Mineral Water Aquacal Ltd for underwriting this month-long season of Edinburgh fringe and triple bills, including some fearlessly rude

material and opening with the most unenvying piece yet to emerge from the Vietnam War. From *Sticks and Bones* to *The War at Home*, such plays are apt to focus on the sadly alienated figure of the returning combat veteran. *Still Life*, by contrast, consists of a group portrait and shows the poison still eating into their lives years after the war. The play presents a former marine and his wife and mistress who sit quietly delivering parallel monologues as though testifying to the nation. Their statements are distilled from taped interviews which Emily Mann conducted in 1978: a method she chose "to ensure that the reality of the people and events described could not be denied". The other defence of the resolutely de-theatricalized approach is that it seems to hold apart three characters who would otherwise be at each others' throats.

Overlapping and echoing one another, their voices explore topics from several viewpoints while gradually uncovering a shared traumatic memory. The wife recalls her fear at finding a jar in which Mark (the husband) had placed her photograph as a fetish to be burnt at the stake. "Those jars he makes", says the mistress, "they're just brilliant".

The speeches are mainly interwoven around the military and sexual battlefields. For Mark, Vietnam was "like the best dope, the best sex you ever had". For the women, traditional sex war is leading to a sterile victory. "You wonder why there's a lot of lesbianism around - look at the men." And

when the wife bitterly complains that it is always she who has to discipline the children, Mark confesses to having murdered a Vietnamese family and now lives in terror that his own son will have to pay the price.

Molly Fowler's production is less highly charged than the 1981 New York version, which was poised on a hair-trigger of hysterical rage. The present company take their cue from the mistress's line: "Will you imagine what would happen if I got angry". They adopt flat, anesthetized voices which reduce trivia and domestic atrocities to the same desolate continuum, backed with projections of napalmed corpses and buddies who failed to come back. Deborah Castle, James Morrison, and Susan Barnes combine in a performance that burns like slow fire. After its showing at this address the production returns to Riverside Studios from November 20 to December 9.

Playing through until the end of next week, *The Brass Band* (Perrier Award Winner) consists of five superlative San Francisco instrumentalists who are doing unheard of things with Ravel's *Bohème* and *Rhapsody in Blue*. I am not too keen on their verbal routines, but when it comes to musical clowning, Harpo Marx would be upstaged by the sight of these giggled and befuddled virtuosi leaping into the *Sabbat Dance* with unsheathed trombones or quaffing deeply from tubes in the Hungarian Rhapsody. Not to be missed.

Irving Wardle

Tosca

Covent Garden

With Puccini already coursing through the orchestra's veins from *Turandot*, the Royal Opera's revival of *Tosca* has been given a timely transfusion. Since June, when the show last appeared, Sir Charles Mackerras has come back to the pit; the performances of Mara Zampieri and Giacomo Aragall have burgeoned; and, in Donald McIntyre, Scarpia and the forces of destruction have found their place once again. The work is once more in ferment, and it is pretty strong stuff.

Under Sir Charles's baton, Puccini's score is pungent, reverberant with the special pulse of this opera. Phrases take their natural weight from the instruments which voice them, and the voice, in turn, is stimulated and supported, tugging and dissolving against line and texture.

Nowhere is that felt more purely physically than in the *Tosca* of Ms Zampieri. The character is the voice: the sensuality of both tenderness and torture are compressed and released in a mobility of response, raw and instinctive in its timbre. Calla-like in its intensity of dramatic involvement, Giacomo Aragall's Cavaradossi is now a fair match: his close-grained, resilient tenor has found new resources of vocal stamina, and his physical presence, in Ande



Mara Zampieri: Tenderness and torture

Anderson's staging, has become more expansive and lyrical too. But it is the effect of Donald McIntyre's Scarpia on those around him that is one of the strongest points of this revival. As he turns the screw with the orchestra, his voice is tight with not only the convulsive rancour of evil, but with its deep misery too. In his Mr Punch profile and in each slow, creeping gesture and question, we feel the force of a palpable, almost Claggart-like cruelty.

In the minor parts, too, this is a revival which justifies its name. From Zeffirelli's shadows they make their mark one by one, notably, Donald Francke in his house debut as the Sacristan and Richard Van Allen as a gaunt, pained Angelotti.

Hilary Finch

Opera

Strong stuff

Concerts

LSC/Hickox

Barbican Hall

Those who doubted that a full chorus and orchestra could be fitted late into the Barbican Hall were proved wrong on Tuesday night when the massed London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus packed the stage for Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* (in which the soloist was David Wilson-Johnson) and *In Honour of the City of London*. It must have been an unenviable place to sing, however, as the resulting sound was so dry and hard that the chorus must have felt they were singing straight into a brick wall.

I have begun to tire of *Belshazzar's Feast* recently, wondering whether its panache and drive really add up to anything much, but Richard Hickox knows how to control and direct this sort of piece to bring out its maximum effectiveness, and *Belshazzar* sounds a miracle of forceful originality when played alongside Walton's much less frequently heard *William Dumbare* setting.

In *Honour of the City of London* is extremely demanding for the chorus, and they met those demands handsomely, but the vapidity and emptiness of the music - at least as it came across on this occasion - takes some beating.

But if that Walton was distinctly uninspiring, Elgar's Violin Concerto played by the

veteran Oscar Shumsky was absolutely astonishing. Shumsky is a small, dumpy figure, taciturn in platform behaviour. His playing breathes the spirit of a former age: generous portamenti, extreme rubati, periodic carelessness about tuning coupled with a piercingly warm and true sound at the climaxes. Suddenly one realized that his was surely the sort of playing for which Elgar must have written the piece, and one marvelled that modern players get anywhere near its spirit.

In Shumsky's hands so many phrases that can seem bald or merely virtuosic suddenly sprang to life with real meaning: the slides and the swellings pointed up the heartache of the piece, turning it at times (as in the bars of chromatic double-stopping before figure 73 in the finale) into fierce tragedy, and the hot-house intensity of the fast passage-work was heightened in effect because the playing was not coldly efficient but always animated by vibrato, rise and fall of volume and an overall rhapsodic conviction.

Richard Hickox did his best to follow this extraordinarily individual performance, and only missed his soloist at a couple of moments when no one could have foreseen his intentions. But the LSO sounded cold and crude beneath the soloist's playing.

Nicholas Kenyon

Ursula Oppens

Glasgow

The second full day of Glasgow's Musica Nova was spent in exhilarating if slightly bemusing oscillation between the yin and yang of the festival's two distinguished foreign visitors: the dynamic Elliott Carter and the still-centred Per Norgard.

Ursula Oppens built her evening recital around recent major piano works by both composers, and the astonishing Danish percussionist, Gert Mortensen, offered the same coupling for his lunchtime work-out in the university

chapel. That came after a long and fascinating morning seminar in which the softly spoken, gently ironical Norgard was persuaded to open some of the secrets of his music, especially the "infinitesimal series" which repeats the same pattern over progressively larger stretches of time.

Yet Norgard's delight in pattern-making and musical games is combined with a hardness and energy belied by his platform manner. *Achilles and the Tortoise*, the piano piece Miss Oppens played, is for the most part a rapid toccata which wobbles furiously around a few notes and then explodes into elegantly robotic dances.

The four movements of *I Ching*, written for Mr Mortensen, exhibit the same virtuosic storming through cycles of varied repetition, like frantic running on the spot. Both works should enhance the reputation of a composer still under-recognized in this country.

Carter, of course, suffers no such neglect, though I have rarely heard his music played so intelligently as it was by Miss Oppens. The solo piano may itself limit the vastness of the composer's imaginings, but the credit must go to Tuesday night's performer for eloquently and intensely bringing forward the burden of the several mighty voices speaking in this abstract conversation.

Paul Griffiths

Television

The Rev Don Cupitt, Dean of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, is an excellent presenter. His script is well written, his conviction, and earnestness compel attention, and he moves well, made lean perhaps in that quest for truth which, if I understood him aright, and you can never be quite sure with a theologian, is part of truth itself.

He referred to that quest in the first of his six-part BBC2 series, *The Sea of Faith*. He intends it to be a demythologizing journey, not entirely new but necessary for, he tells us in an article in *The Listener*, he and those of his persuasion want religion to be "a severe discipline without any consolations whatever". He is anxious to blow away "the pixie dust".

For those to whom theology is a continuing absorption, it would obviously be least distracting if Mr Cupitt spoke straight into camera, stating his propositions and developing his arguments. To catch the eye of a

wider audience, who may be not more at peace with themselves in consequence, he is on the move.

He began in Galileo's rooms, reflecting on how his experiments had changed man's concept of the universe and led him towards a mechanistic view which increasingly crowded out God. Last night, in *The Human Animal*, he moved to further advances in man's scientific knowledge which have left him less sure where and what he is. We saw him on the territory of the 18th century geologist, William Smith, in the home of Darwin, then in Freud's Vienna, and lastly in Jung's Swiss retreat.

Geology had demonstrated that Creation could not have been a six-day event, though believers could adjust their faith, Darwin had a more disturbing effect. Perhaps his most profound impact, said Mr Cupitt, was that he returned religion to earth; he had seemed

to make the idea of a separate Creation impossible.

Freud had been the Darwin of the mind, a man who had believed that religion was not a therapy but an illness. To Jung the idea of God was essential but nothing to do with God's existence. We saw a clip of Jung, in conversation with John Freeman, saying, in answer to a question on his belief in God, "I don't need to believe, I know".

Mr Cupitt may not produce a similar certainty in his audience but he admires Jung, "the first multi-faith thinker", who had believed that God was self-knowledge. He considered that, in the end, we were all going to have to follow Jung.

That will depend on the extent to which we find his route comprehensible and whether we have the necessary asceticism. The latter is a quality of a few; faith is still the need of many.

Dennis Hackett

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BOOKS 1

The last of the actress goddesses

James Fenton reviews
the life and loves
of a great prima donna

DUSE
A Biography
By William Weaver
Thames & Hudson, £12.50

immense amount of documentary material, so that by the end of his research there are very few serious gaps in our knowledge of Duse's life) but they are disappointingly vague and declaratory - all about the depth of emotion they feel and about their plans for perhaps meeting again some day.

The discretion over the Boito affair was necessary because the grand man moved in circles which would not dream of accepting Duse as his consort, famous and admired though she might be. Gabriele d'Annunzio, the second great love, was already a scandalous public figure when they met - but this is where the fatal weakness for genius comes in. During their affair, which Duse could not keep secret, d'Annunzio was promising play after play that would inaugurate a new era in Italian art. He was also writing a novel, *Il Fuoco*, which contained a glamorous self-portrait and a cruel depiction of the effect of age on an actress. Duse knew what he was writing - she even encouraged him to complete the book on the basis that any sacrifice was justified in the name of Art. Yet it was inevitable that publication would hurt her deeply: "I thought that it was true art: I tried to defend it. It's terrible, terrible."

The stories of the way d'Annunzio used Duse's talent and money for as long as it suited him leaves little doubt as to the question of his niceness. He was not nice at all. He was extremely nasty. While his play, *La Gloria*, was meeting a hostile reception in Naples, and Duse was on stage fighting to save it, d'Annunzio was in the wings making love to one of the actresses of the troupe. He got a great buzz from his infidelities, but once or twice he was given cause for thought. He kept telling Duse how pretty a certain Madame le Bary was. They were staying in the same place and, one lunchtime, Duse appeared at the table, picked up Madame le Bary, carried her off down the corridor, opened the door of her room and hurled her into the bed, shouting at d'Annunzio: "There you are, you love her, so there she is!" Then she double-locked the door after her and left the pair. d'Annunzio commented: "Our friend is mad." The other members of the luncheon party had to release the couple with a ladder.

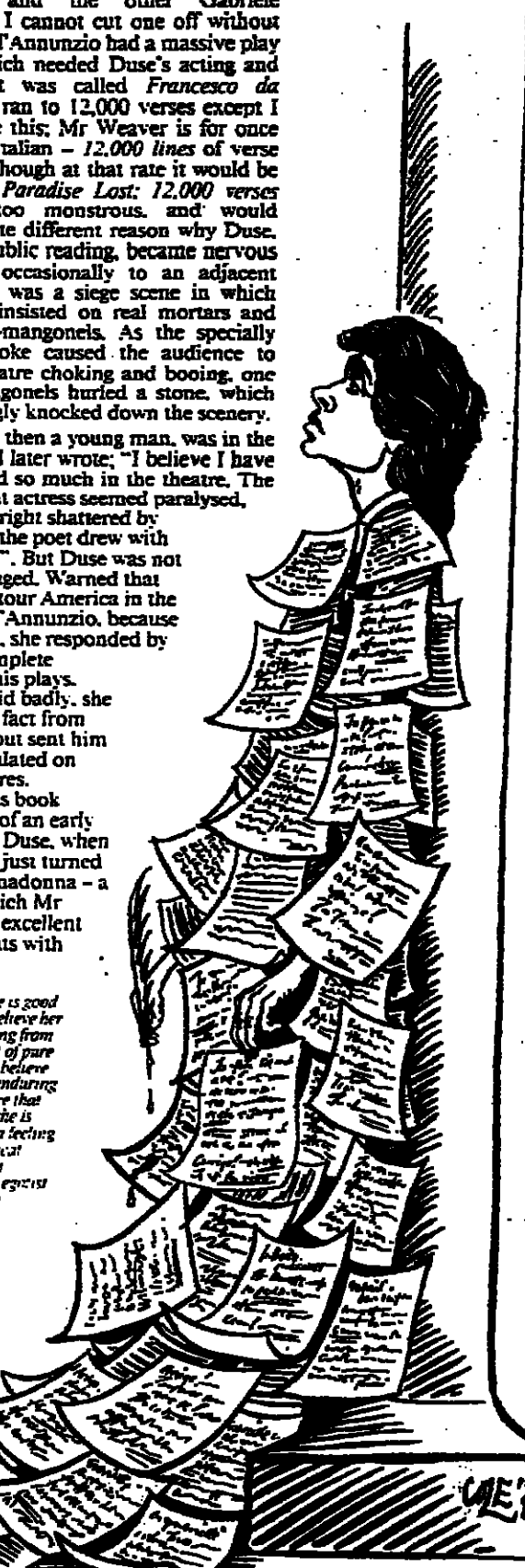
A friend gave Duse some very frank advice about d'Annunzio: "If you want to give him money, perform Dumas. But don't mix your love and your art: don't play these works, which are bad and which

you perform badly and which do you economic and artistic harm." Duse's daughter Enrichetta, complained as well, and is said to have been told by her mother: "I have two arms - one is Enrichetta, and the other Gabriele d'Annunzio. I cannot cut one off without dying." But d'Annunzio had a massive play in hand, which needed Duse's acting and financing. It was called *Francesca da Rimini*, and ran to 12,000 verses except I don't believe this. Mr Weaver is for once thinking in Italian - 12,000 lines of verse perhaps - although at that rate it would be longer than *Paradise Lost*: 12,000 verses would be 100 monstrous, and would suggest a quite different reason why Duse, at the first public reading, became nervous and retired occasionally to an adjacent room. There was a siege scene in which d'Annunzio insisted on real mortars and genuine war-mangonies. As the specially prepared smoke caused the audience to leave the theatre choking and booing, one of these mangonies hurled a stone, which not surprisingly knocked down the scenery.

Pirandello, then a young man, was in the audience and later wrote: "I believe I have never suffered so much in the theatre. The art of the great actress seemed paralysed, indeed, downright shattered by the character the poet drew with heavy strokes." But Duse was not to be discouraged. Warned that she must not tour America in the company of d'Annunzio, because of the scandal, she responded by taking the complete repertoire of his plays. When these did badly, she concealed the fact from d'Annunzio, but sent him royalties calculated on sold-out theatres.

Reading this book reminded me of an early judgement on Duse, when her talent had just turned her into a prima donna - a judgement which Mr Weaver in his excellent biography treats with some caution:

I do not believe she is good. I mean, I do not believe her capable of refinements from something had out of pure goodness. I do not believe her capable of an enduring feeling, but I believe that for the short time she is under the sway of a feeling she is capable of great sacrifice and great heroism. She is an egotist who loves suffering.



Left-wing plots from an old pro

THRILLERS

Tim Heald

THE FOURTH PROTOCOL

By Frederick Forsyth
Hutchinson, £9.95

The trouble with reviewing a book as tightly and intricately plotted as this is that you hardly dare mention a character, let alone a quibble, for fear of giving something away which will ruin it for the reader. If "Chelsea" is who it seems to be at the end, then why, near the beginning... no, I can't ask that without blowing "Chelsea", but on the other hand if Philby was keen to... oops, if I say that I'll give away the fact that Philby was never... stop. It can't be done.

Even the publishers' blurb writer, it seems to me, gives away more than he really ought. He or she reveals that "Plan Aurora" was "hatched in a remote dacha in the forest outside Moscow" and involves a Soviet agent in Suffolk, assembling "the pieces of a jigsaw of devastation". John Preston of British Intelligence is on his tail. If the agent wins then the "Fourth Protocol" will have been successfully breached and in the resulting chaos the Labour Party will beat the Conservatives. Immediately afterwards "MBR" will roll, Mr Kinnoch will be deposed, and the hard left will take over to rule in perpetuity. It is 1986.

This time Mr Forsyth gets a straight alpha for plot. He starts with a high class diamond heist and moves inexorably to a high speed chase and SAS shoot-bangs which may, in the best traditions of this genre, bring an immediate end to civilized society as we know it. He also scores an alpha for construction. He plays his hand like a seasoned card sharp - bluffing, tantalizing, trumping right up until the final ace on page 448.

I'd also be inclined to give him top marks for detail. I neither know nor (if truth be told) enormously care that a Chubb mortise has 17,000 computations and permutations, or that without a ketubah you can't have a barmitzvah, or even that liaison between M16 and M15 is conducted by a section called K7. It is conceivable that Mr Forsyth is wrong about all this and more, but the point is that he produces an almanac of arcane facts with absolute conviction. "To call in the Special Air Service" he writes at one point, "is not as easy as the more adventurous television dramas might suggest". The put-down is justified. Unlike practically all his rivals Mr Forsyth seems to know exactly how the intelligence services operate. No guess-work, few flights of fancy.

Characterization is not a strong point. His hero, Preston, is, as his South African colleague suggests, "a damned good jagdhond" - an indefatigable, tenacious investigator - and we are told that he is divorced with a young son of whom he is very fond. Precious little else. Sex, by the way, has been almost totally eliminated. Back in *The Day of the Jackal* he made forays into the bedroom; but he wasn't very good at it. In this book there is only one woman of any consequence. Blodwyn, an indispensable backroom girl who has a photographic memory for

faces, but she scarcely exists as a person.

The style echoes this - flat, common-sensical with not a sniff of a purple passage, but a curious tendency to use long bureaucratic words. When someone falls off a high roof his body doesn't "hit" the ground below, it "impacts", when two men get together in an office they don't "meet", they "convene". Oddly enough this is very effective. As Mr Forsyth himself says, "police recorded depositions", "they were stilted and formal, quite unlike the way people actually narrate what they have seen and heard". Consciously or not he himself writes rather as one would expect a very senior policeman (of the sort interviewed on TV news after a bomb outrage).

The only moment when this really jars is in the report allegedly written by Kim Philby to the Secretary-General of the Soviet Communist Party. I cannot believe that Philby would write "Now to specifics" or "To conclude, my two-part response". No Observer sub would ever have let that through.

But in the end this is a triumph of plot, construction and research. As such it is certainly as good as any Forsyth since the Jackal, and I think better than that. And it makes practically all the opposition look like callow amateurs. This is the work of a real old pro.

● China Race, by John Dyson (Hutchinson, £9.95). We have a fine tradition of nautical yarn spinners going back at least as far as Captain Marryat. But with the remarkable exception of Alexander Kent/Douglas Reeman the seam seems underworked at present. Mr Dyson knows his rudder pindles from his spanker galls, and has a keen grasp of the leeward gaskets of the fore-royal. They are racing across the oceans from China to England with the new season's tea, it being the year of the death of the Duke of Wellington. Pretty nattering stuff for armchair sea-dogs.

● The Russian Professor, by Andrew Gilechrist (Hale, £7.95). Obligatory, I think, to doff one's hat to our former Man in Dublin, ex Ambassador, ex Chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, who makes his fictional debut at the age of 74. As anyone who knows anything about Sir Andrew will guess, this is genial and breezy, and faintly implausible. Sample quote: "The British knew too, and knew that the Russians knew; but the Russians did not know that the British knew they knew. That was the scenario was it not? Well was it? Damned if I know, but I still enjoyed the book."

THE EAGLE AND THE SMALL BIRDS

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Michael Charlton's survey of a particularly turbulent part of Europe in the four decades since the Soviet takeover. It offers evidence of the collapse of ideology within the Communist fold, and shows the Polish Crisis to have been the latest in a chain that includes the Hungarian Uprising of 1956 and the Prague Spring of 1968. The significance of Solidarity still reverberates in the countries of the Communist bloc and in the West.

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Winston Churchill to Josef Stalin, Yalta, 1945

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TIME AFTER TIME

Molly Keane
Bestselling author of 1981 Booker Prize
contender *Good Behaviour*

A HOT COUNTRY

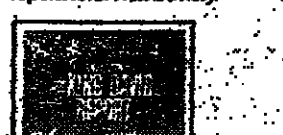
Shiraz Nardani

'A work of art that delights with its craft
& dazzles with its vision'

Times Literary Supplement

THE GREAT EVOLUTION MYSTERY

Gordon Rattray Taylor
Author of *The Biological Time Bomb*. 'Superb... authoritative yet readable, provocative yet responsible.' *New Society*



THE ISSA VALLEY

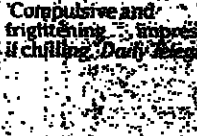
Cressley Milnes
Winner of the 1983 Booker Prize for Literature. 'A novel as impressive but as unimpeachably appealing as any I have read.' *Times Literary Supplement*



BETHANY

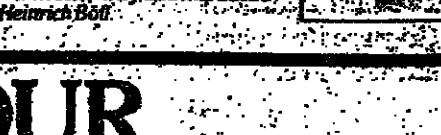
Anita Mason

Author of *The Muslim*, shortlisted for 1983
Booker Prize. 'Compulsive and brilliant... a chilling, daily nightmare.'



THE KING DAVID

REPORT Stefan Hogg
'Fantastic, witty and impudent.'

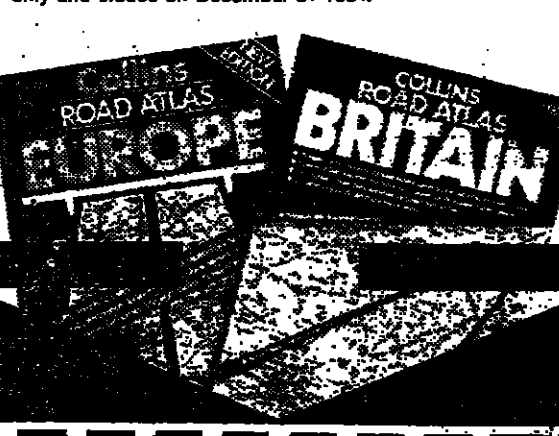


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HUTCHINSON

BOOKS II

Grand regiment of founding feminists

Gay Firth

SIGNIFICANT SISTERS
The Grassroots of Active
Feminism 1839-1939
By Margaret Forster
Secker & Warburg, £12.50diddle for Caroline Norton
(1808-1877), "calumniated
lady" pioneer of legal status for
women - mothers and wives -
who had none.Josephine Butler (1828-1906)
kicked the "double standard" of
sexual morality "in its most
private parts". Elizabeth CadyStanton (1815-1902) claimed
women's "sacred right to the
elective franchise". Margaret
Sanger (1879-1966) saw her first
contraception advice clinic
"packed to bursting": a Brook-
lyn wonder between 16 October
1916, when the door opened,
and its abrupt closure nine days
later - "raided in a gratifyingly
spectacular fashion" by New
York police, fully armed, sirens
screaming.In a "whole life dedicated to
shocking people into thought",
a life in which sex was
overwhelmingly important,
Emma Goldman (1869-1940)
perceived in her own generation
and, to her greater glory, for our
own, a central riddle: "There canbe "no place within feminism
that dispensed with the need
women had for men." Here is
the ideological bridge between
the old 19th century feminism
and the new, late 20th century,
manifestation.On that bridge, straddled
between the devil (or some-
body) and the deep blue sea (or
somewhere), stand people: men
and women who "strive to
secure a society in which neither
sex finds gender alone a
handicap to their progress." Margaret Forster minds their
manners as well as her own;
ironing irony smooth through
350 pages of fascinating biogra-
phy, thoughtful commentary,
and valuable source notes on
the creases... sometimes
crumpled, always untidy lives
of women who jumped over the
moon. Observing them, she
shows herself a person as well as
a woman; an historian as well as
a feminist; a scholar and a
gentleman.

Englishman in the chowder

FICTION

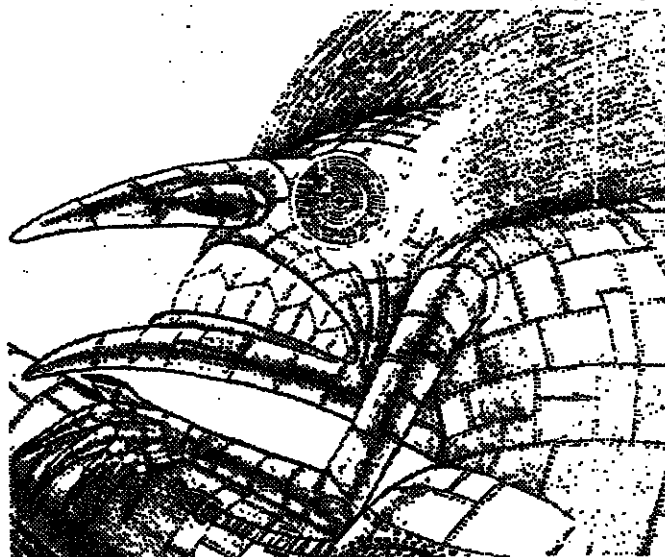
John Nicholson

STARS AND BARS
By William Boyd
Hamish Hamilton, £8.50THE WHITE CORRIDORS
By Mel Stein
Plakos Books, £8.95THE DAWLISH SEASON
By Desmond Rayner
Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95ZOE
By Dirk Wittenborn
Sidgwick & Jackson, £8.95Henderson Does, nearly 40 but
still not reconciled to his
personality, has come to Man-
hattan to grow out of his
Englishness. At least he doesn't
need to worry about his name
any longer, since all his
colleagues at Mulholland, Mel-
huish (Fine Art Auctioneers)
answer to such appellations as
Ian Toothie and Pruitt Halfacre
(take a black mark, Boyd, for
adopting the irritating con-
vention of using silly names to
signal that characters aren't
meant to be taken seriously).
But Henderson's personal life is
hardly conducive to inner
tranquillity. A deliciously
demanding new girl-friend like
Irene Stien is the last thing a
man needs when he has just
decided to remarry a woman as
proper as Melissa Wax.Then there are the linguistic
misunderstandings.Ah, if only Henderson could!
But he has so much on his
mind: insomnia, for example,
and the recent sprouting of hairs
in his ears and nostrils, to say
nothing of the prospect of
becoming stepfather to
Melissa's teenage daughter
Bryant. Out of the blue
Mulholland... Melhuish
are offered the chance of a major
sale of Impressionists. Being the
relevant expert, it's up to
Henderson to venture to the
deepest South to evaluate the
pictures. It looks like a heaven-
sent opportunity to impress his
boss Tom Beeby while indulg-
ing his dangerous passion for
Irene.But chance. Like the Wode-
house aunt she so unnervingly
resembles, Melissa assigns him
the task of escorting her
daughter to Washington. Bryant
of course decides a trip down
South would be much more fun.
So it is, for her. Henderson on
the other hand is soon utterly at
sea amongst Loomis Cage's
lunatic household. Or is there
some more sinister explanation
than simple madness for the
bizarre events and personalities
which threaten to turn sunny
Luxors into the Englishman's
Waterloo? A whirlpool bath
preaches the final straw (no
apologies for mixing metaphorsin these surroundings), and the
book ends on an unexpectedly
sour cadence of professional
and personal disillusion on the
part of its much put-upon
protagonist.This is one of the few false
notes in what is without doubt
William Boyd's best book so
far. After a worthy if over-
praised stab at something more
serious in *An Ice Cream War*, it's a
pleasure to welcome him back
to what he does best - the comic
novel. The writing is immacu-
late, the plotting and pacing
even more confident than in *A
Good Man in Africa*, and Mr
Boyd shares with E. Waugh and
J. Amis (but not, sadly, T.
Sharpe) the priceless asset of
knowing just how long a scene
should run (Henderson Does'
encounter with a quartet of
"muggers" will surely appear in
every future anthology of
humorous writing). *Stars and
Bars* made me laugh out loud
six or seven times. Perhaps the
Tuscan sun had something to
do with it. But it can hardly
explain why I am itching to
reread the damn thing.Pick of the rest of this week's
crop is London solicitor Mel
Stein's attempt to hit the
jackpot by crossing *Coma* with
Perry Mason. Convincing in
both hospital background and
legal detail, *The White Corri-
dors* is a gripping account of a
couple's efforts to expose and
revenge the medical malpractice
which led to their daughter's
death. Desmond Rayner's debut
as a novelist also leans heavily
on technical expertise, this time
theatrical. You can smell the
greasepaint, but the roar of the
crowd is eclipsed by a rising tide
of bathos and finally drowned
in a vortex of clichés, if you see
what I mean. Finally, the
transformation of smalltown
teenager into superstar fashion
model is a tale that has been
told many times before, and by
writers more accomplished than
Dirk Wittenborn. Zoe's bitchy
New York parochialism hits the
English reader with all the force
of a dead goldfish.Sharp eyes
behind the
barbed wire

Philip Howard

EMPIRE OF THE SUN
By J. G. Ballard
Villainy, £8.95The POW story is a peculiarly
British genre. Until now Ballard
has been known as a writer of
science fiction, whatever that
label means. It is remarkable
that he has waited 40 years to
produce this deeply felt novel
based on his experiences in the
war.It describes how an 11-year-
old English boy, for whom
England is a country far
stranger than China, is swept
away by the tides of war around
Shanghai, and grows up in
Lunggha Civilian Assembly
Centre, where Ballard himself
was interned. It sees the
cataclysm through the eyes of a
naïve boy, but with the sensi-
bility of a clever adult.Jim, the boy, comes of age
fast. He loses his innocence,
learns to enjoy war, with a guilty
excitement, and admires the
bravery and solitary stoicism of
the Japanese more than the
morose and complicated British.
The camp becomes his real
home, and, in spite of the
starvation and the stench of
death, the coming world outside
the camp becomes frightening.It is a cut above the usual
POW story. But it is more than
that. Ballard has always put
apocalyptic visions in his
science fiction. His war book
has powerful themes behind the
barbed wire. By the end, when
Jim is almost mad with hunger
he has persistent delusions that
the dead are coming to life. In
his expression of the heart of
darkness in the human condi-
tion, experienced by a small
boy, the book explores the same
dark jungle as *Lord of the Flies*.

Iron Lady tract for the Falklands War

There's not much of a story in
Raymond Briggs's new picture
book (*Impetuous James Gil-
ray, nihilist about Tam Dalyell*).
It starts promisingly enough:
"Once upon a time..." and
there look to be dramatic
possibilities in the opening
scenes, when some sad shep-
herds living on an island, are
set upon by a giant, all dressed
up in tin-plate and tassels.
"Mea bagganza el island!" he
roars, "I bags the island!"Instead of Tom Thumb or
Jack-the-Giant-Killer arriving to
outwit the fellow with some fine
stratagem, Mr Briggs now
brings on an even less appealing
iron-clad giantess. ("It's
MINE," she screeches. "I
bagsied it AGES ago! I bagsied
it FIRST!") She fires off a few
rounds from her sixteen-inch
mammaries and swipes the
giant round the bottom with her
iron suspenders. Various lay-
figures, sketched in muted
chrome, are shot, drowned or
immolated; and, as a result, the
iron-clad giantess claims vic-tory. Medals are distributed, the
tin-plate general vows to come
back, "and the families of the
dead tended the graves."
Like most tract-writers and

Brian Alderson

THE TIN-POT FOREIGN
GENERAL AND THE OLD
IRON WOMAN
By Raymond Briggs
Hamish Hamilton, £4.95, paperback
£2.50the bottom of the world, and
Glasgow. "Nationalism is an
infatigable disease. It is the measles
of mankind." The ferocity of his
attack on the warring giants, the
gentleness of his sympathy for
their slain minions are the easy
responses of a reductive imagina-
tion. What he does not do is to
ponder the state of the sad
shepherds with whom the book
began. In their pot-lid hats and
their green smocks they seem to
be figures of fun - mere counters
of sheep and eaters of mutton.
What would have become of
them though if the tin-plate
giant had had his way? What
sort of story would Mr Briggs
have wanted to tell us then?

Up the track into the plonk

Dick Francis's great strength is
that he understands his limita-
tions and has no pretension to
exceed them. Where some of his
thriller-writing contemporaries
treat their success as a message
to enlarge their ambitions, with
usually disappointing results,
Francis continues triumphantly
to find new ways of exploring
the narrow, horse-orientated
world over which he now
exercises a literary near-mon-
opoly. *Proof*, his twenty-third
novel, shows no signs of
flagging inventiveness or en-
thusiasm.His heroes are broody and
bruised men, loners shadowed
by their past, bitter, obsessed or
merely depressed; engaging the
reader with sympathy, without
piling on the gloom. They start
off as moral and physical
cowards, and are persuaded by
events to become reluctant
combatants. Acts of violence
are described with economy and
power. The method of murder
in *Proof* is all the more
sickening for being understated -
the reader's imagination
furnishes the final horrific
details.*Proof* is formula Francis,
even if its focus is more
zoological than equine. Our
hero, a widowed wine-seller,
finds plonk passed off as claret,
doctored whisky, and suspi-
cious rascals catering
firms. Francis clearly appre-
ciates his rouse as much as his
racing, and the combination is
faultlessly exciting.

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

PROOF

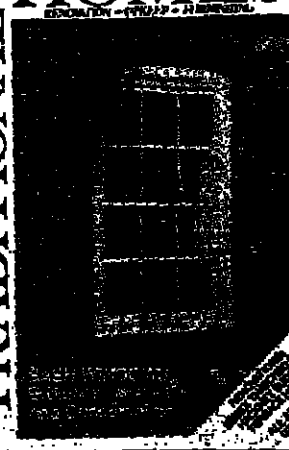
By Dick Francis
Michael Joseph, £8.95John Creasey's Crime Col-
lection 1984 edited by Herbert
Harris (Gollancz, £7.95). The
short story, once an integral and
proud arm of English crime
fiction, has been going through
hard times. The demands of
modern publishing and market-
ing, minimal financial returns
for the author, and the paucity
of outlets have interacted to
make the short crime story a
minority oddity, essayed suc-
cessfully by few writers, and
read by only a small proportion
of thriller enthusiasts.The annual anthologies from
the Crime Writers' Association
are among the few remaining
platforms for the declining
genre. It would be pleasant to
report that the 1984 collection
bulges with brilliance and new
talent. Unhappily, the gems are
scarce and there are some
entries which can only have
been included because of the
poverty of the competition. The
contributions from Julian
Symons, Anthony Price, Dor-
othy Simpson, Celia Dale and
Peter Godfrey are top-class by
any standards, and many more
are entertaining without being
exceptional. The ensemble,
though, is disappointing.The Janus Murder Case, by
Colin Wilson (Granada, £8.95).
Inspector Sahleel, not seen
since *The Schoolgirl Murder
Case* ten years ago, reappears to
help puzzled local police solve
the kinky killing of a mysterious
Polish sailor. As always, Wil-
sonland is peopled with more
than its fair share of sexual
deviants. An Institute of Sexual
Science provides the suspects,
but the psychological motives
are deep, complex and disturb-
ing. A multilayered who-and-
whydunit of the mind, with a
factual explanatory appendix
supporting the solution.Out of Time, by Michael Z.
Levin (Macmillan, £7.50). In-
dianapolis is not Los Angeles,
but it has a couple of mean
streets, a few murky secrets and,
in Albert Samson, a private eye
with Marlowe-size principles
and the ability to burrow in the
past with the best of them. His
enquiry into a society lady's
fake birth certificate reveals 40-
year-old homicidal passions not
yet sated.Pel and the Pirates, by Mark
Hobden (Hamish Hamilton,
£8.95). The solid Inspector
Evariste Pel, finally hooked by
the formidable Widow Gon-
cieve, is persuaded to leave his
beloved Burgundy for a honey-
moon: island off the Côte
d'Azur. Idyllic, except for gang
warfare, smuggling, corruption,
arson, and murder. Pel travels
better than most Frenchmen,
and the new matrimonial
dimension is delightful.

The Fabulous Englishman

ROBERT McCURM

"Splendid reading." *Mail on Sunday*
"Inventiveness, audacity and humour... a
glittering literary collage." *The Times*
"McCrumb writes about the actuality of Czech
politics with vigorous commitment and as
convincingly as his picture of fear and loathing
in SW18." *Financial Times*

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THE TIMES DIARY

Bishops checked

Liberal MP Simon Hughes had trouble finding a guest speaker for his breakfast prayer meeting in Bournemouth yesterday. The (socialist) Bishop of Stepney had agreed to attend, and then cried off. Hughes instead approached the Bishop of Salisbury, who was convalescing and then the Bishop of Southampton, who declined because he had to see his doctor in London. The five London bishops had a diocesan meeting to attend, as did the two bishops of Southwark. The Bishop of Sherborne was otherwise engaged. The Bishop of Ramsbury was getting home too late the night before, and the Bishop of Winchester and his assistant were away. The retired Bishop of Southampton was simply unavailable. Even a retired Bishop of Singapore, now living in Bournemouth, could not make it. In the end Hughes had to rely on the son of a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland. Not as bad as it sounds. He is David Steel.

Short price

Ladbroke's, the chain which owns the Savoy in Bournemouth where David Steel is staying during the conference, has every reason to grieve. First he limits his hotel drinks bill to £200 for the week. Now Ladbroke's have to delay tomorrow's Ayr Gold Cup, which it is sponsoring, by one hour - because the race would have been competing on television with the Liberal leader's speech to his party assembly.

Framed

Lady Porter's latest attempts to promote efficiency at her own Westminster City Council - by installing a new mainframe computer - has the Labour group howling for the resignation of the man responsible for the installation, technology sub-committee chairman Graham Mather. Mather also heads the policy unit at the Institute of Directors, where his boss is Sir John Hoskyns, and earlier this month Westminster Council received an unsolicited approach from the company Sir John founded, the Hoskyns Group, offering to advise on the installation. Labour councillors find the connections "too close for comfort" and have demanded a full enquiry, but Mather is unperturbed. "It's all very silly," he says. He insists, and council officers confirm, that Sir John severed all relations with the Hoskyns Group when he sold it in 1975.

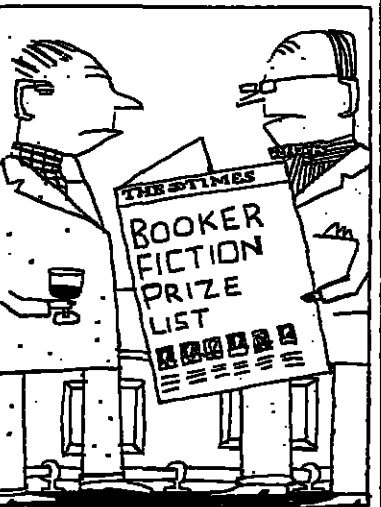
Uncivil

Not one person turned up for a Young Liberal news conference on civil liberties at Bournemouth yesterday morning. "People are at liberty not to come," observed the crestfallen would-be chairman David Senior, "but I don't think it is very civil of them".

Walking free

As Alexander Haig, Francis Pym et al sidestep all things Belgrano, I hear the man at the centre of the Government's "Watergate", Clive Ponting, has left his Islington home. The senior civil servant, who will appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on October 9 charged under the Official Secrets Act, has gone on a walking holiday in Yorkshire. His solicitor, Brian Raymond, is also on holiday, and is not returning to his practice until the beginning of next month. Luckily for Ponting, he will not be called from the hills to report to local Yorkshire police stations: his bail is unconditional.

BARRY FANTONI



Red faction

If Bitov were informed of a book published by the Bodley Head in London today, I suspect he might manage a wry smile. Written by disinformation expert Vladimir Volkoff, and appropriately entitled *The Set Up*, it is about a homesick Russian in Western Europe, who, is set up as a literary agent on the orders of the KGB's chief of Directorate A, the man responsible for disinformation and the manipulation of western opinion. Volkoff, who from his American home in Georgia, yesterday denounced Bitov's claims of British torture as romantic tales, opens his book: "If I were to assert that *The Set Up* is simply the product of my imagination, no one would believe me. Let me therefore here express my gratitude to the many and various comrades upon whose expert advice I have drawn."

PHS

Liberals: defend and disarm

by Paddy Ashdown

Our society faces two threats at present. The one is perceived to be to our freedoms and our way of life from the East, and the other is to our very survival, from our possession of nuclear weapons in ever increasing numbers, lethality and sophistication. A convincing defence policy has to address both threats - to be realistic about defence and positive about disarmament. But that is just what is not on offer from the two major parties. The Tories are seen to be strong on defence but unconvincing on disarmament. Labour is sincere about disarmament but regarded as soft on defence.

These contradictions are not just foolish - they are dangerous. The issues have become so simplified that many inside and outside politics have come to believe that having a position on, say, cruise, is the same as having a defence policy. Thus the Tories, while rejecting unilateral disarmament as a route to peace, nevertheless accept unilateral disarmament as a means to achieving security. Furthermore, limited defence resources mean that their proposal to acquire Trident makes it impossible to achieve their stated aim of adequate conventional defence.

The two halves of Labour's defence policy are no less inconsistent. They seek to do two impossible things before breakfast - scrap nuclear weapons on the one hand, and reduce conventional defence spending on the other.

To be credible defence and disarmament policies need to be interlinked - each ingredient supporting rather than contradicting the other. That is the kind of defence policy which the Liberals are seeking at

Bournemouth. It seems very likely that the Liberal Party will reaffirm our commitment to Nato - but a Nato which we wish to see fundamentally reformed.

Commitment on the European side could and should be made, as good partners, where the alliance is weakest - conventional defence - on a basis which ensures adequate security, but which is non-provocative in character. That Nato's deterrent would then be an almost exclusively American one should not worry us. After all, that is the present situation anyway.

Given the current overall parity in nuclear capacity between East and West (at a level sufficient for each to destroy the other 40 times over), there is considerable logic in allowing the deterrent to be operated at the strategic level only. The cancellation of Trident, and a release from the Fortress Falklands policy, should liberate sufficient resources to increase conventional defence levels to the point where our disgraceful and immoral "first use" policy can be abandoned, and the removal of highly dangerous frontline battlefield nuclear weapons can be considered.

The abandonment of "first use" and the judicious creation of battlefield nuclear free zones is a considerable prize to achieve - one for which we should be prepared to pay a price. I hope we will accept that defence spending is very unlikely to be reduced, and may even have temporarily to be increased, if we are serious about such a policy. The real prize for such a posture would not just

be a reduction in tensions between East and West, but in the creation of the right climate for disarmament talks.

Here again Europe has a vital role to play. It is no longer acceptable that the two superpowers should be as chess players at a table - they move the pieces, but Europe is the board. We demand a third chair at the table, and believe that the new initiatives and perspectives which Europe could bring could provide a way out of the deadlock.

Above all we stress that disarmament is a process, not an event. The point is to start with a first step. With massively greater deterrent power than we need, the first step should be a freeze - maybe even a unilateral one. After all the Government boasts that Nato has "unilaterally" removed 1,000 warheads from Europe over the last few years. If we can countenance unilateral reductions of that sort, surely we can consider unilateral maintenance of numbers at their present levels?

I have left cruise to last, and deliberately so. One alternative is to halt cruise deployment and as the first step in post-freeze negotiations remove those that remain, or remove cruise altogether.

My own view is that cruise should have no part in our defence policy. But the real significance of our decision should be that, whichever option wins on cruise, the rest of our defence policy is not undermined by the choice. The overall structure should hold together - something which could not be said in similar circumstances for the defence policies of our two major party rivals.

The author is Liberal MP for Yeovil.

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Ian Williams on economic cuts that could disturb Jamaica's unusual calm

Storm clouds over Seaga

STRUGGLE. PRODUCE.



Life in Seaga's Jamaica: the 'bright future' has not materialized, and US friendship has made little impact

proffering no alternative, lending credibility to the widespread view that although things are bad and likely to get worse, there is no real alternative.

In the short term, Seaga's real political problem is within his own government - a "bogus government" in the language of ghetto graffiti. Two of his senior ministers resigned last month amid rumours of a leadership crisis. Seaga's carefully cultivated image as a cold, pragmatic technocrat has given way to talk of arrogance and autocracy. This year the political violence has involved rival factions of the JLP, with eight people killed in a gun-fight last May.

One of the reasons for Seaga's unpopularity is his failure to deliver the "bright future" promised in

Few Jamaicans expect much change from the US. They are already disillusioned by the failure of President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative, launched with much fanfare in 1982 to revitalize the economies of friendly countries in the region, to make any great impact.

Seaga says very little in public, but is looking increasingly to Europe. He is trying to boost tourism as a way of obtaining scarce foreign currency, at a time when the market for bauxite - the country's biggest foreign currency earner - has contracted. But tourism is vulnerable to two factors: drugs and criminal violence.

Marijuana (or Ganja as it is known locally) has almost become part of Jamaican culture, but the changing nature of the drugs trade is now threatening tourism. Tourists are harassed by pushers, the government believes, and the island's increased importance as a transit centre for hard drugs could risk reprisals from the US.

"Jamaica has become such a big centre that we could lose our aircraft into the United States; we could lose the Trans-shipment Port... the Freezone... forget about the expansion of our industrial areas", said Winston Dear, president of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce. There are also too many guns. Criminal violence - there is an average of three killings per day - has become endemic, and the government is considering new powers to deal with it.

On neither problem does the PNP find any major difference with the government. It goes out of its way to stress its role as a responsible opposition - "putting Jamaica first", according to P. J. Patterson, the party chairman. He contrasts this with the behaviour of the JLP during the latter part of Manley's last government, when it conducted a massive campaign of opposition overseas.

The reputation of the police has worsened considerably. Last month seven police officers were accused of raping a 19-year-old girl during an overnight stay at their station in West Kingston. This has added to the already widespread view of the police as corrupt and violent, and there have been renewed calls for an enquiry into the force.

The political temperature in Jamaica - a thriving democracy that often thrives too much, as one person put it to me - may have remained calm through the most stingy part of the IMF package, but Seaga is far from home and dry, with more public spending cuts to come. He has to show that the package is worth it. In this respect, the next six months will be crucial.

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Ronald Butt

There to serve, not to govern

The liberal establishment is in revolt and the Liberal Assembly is in the vanguard. Mrs Thatcher is threatening our liberties and something must be done about it. To one Liberal lady of mature years who addressed the assembly yesterday the Prime Minister, with her riot police trying to break up the miners' pickets, is reminiscent of Presidents Pinochet and Botha. That was perhaps putting it sharply even for the Liberal Assembly, but there is no doubt that Mrs Thatcher was cast as the villain of the piece.

In the first debate, Mr Des Wilson, the veteran pressure-group, presented a motion on behalf of the Liberal students and others, censuring the "increasingly repressive and secretive attitudes of the Prime Minister and government. It demanded more openness in government generally, but its nub was the repeal of the Official Secrets Act, and its replacement by a statutory right of access to official information, except for some specified exemptions such as defence.

Then, yesterday morning, a complementary motion was sponsored by the Young Liberals and others. It asserted the "continual erosion of civil liberties under the present government", citing among other examples the "Prevention of Terrorism Act; the Official Secrets Act; the law against secondary picketing and the seizure of union funds.

It also advocated more "political education". One of the motion's supporters gave the game away, by saying that people should be taught what the government should do for them and then "hopefully" they would realize that it was not doing it. It wanted an "anti-discrimination Bill" to "give" (that is, impose) equality.

Most remarkably the motion declared that "the British people are morally justified in disobeying the laws of this country where this is in furtherance of the articles of the European Convention of Human Rights", provided they justified their action before the courts. More responsible voices of parliamentarians invited the assembly to delete both the support for secondary picketing and the invitation to disobey the law, but the assembly voted specifically to keep them in.

Both debates were highly topical. Des Wilson began with a direct reference to the charge against the "recently honoured" senior civil servant who is now accused of leaking documents, and he deplored the sentence on Miss Sarah Tisdall for a similar offence. In what he called a topical amendment, duly passed, Mr Louis Blom-Cooper deplored the use of the Official Secrets Act for disciplining a civil servant. Another speaker wanted the Liberal government to offer reinstatement to Miss Tisdall and to anyone in a similar case.

Yet another speaker blamed the government for politicizing the Civil Service by promoting those favourable to it. The possibility had not struck him that a Government might be impelled to take such action because of a climate of opinion which encourages those who are supposed to be its trusted and impartial advisers to feel free to campaign against it, by passing on purloined documents anonymously when they choose.

Paul Pickering

Belmondo has a lot to answer for

Accidentally getting on the wrong plane is something I thought would never happen to me. It's the kind of extravagant mistake one expects from jet-setting record company executives or Nigerian ex-ministers, but I assure you it's quite easy and open to all. My boarding the inappropriate aircraft was due to a personal character flaw: I hate the French.

By that I do not mean I hate all the French, or all things French. Their cheese, cooking, wines, brandy, canals, riot police and personal hygiene are all streets ahead of ours. Even *The Plan For Coal* whispered in one's ear by a young female French voice, was a masterpiece of aphorism. No, what ails me could best be described as Jean-Paul Belmondophobia.

Everyone must have seen the actor in French gangster films with his seven o'clock shadow and seemingly mild-mannered line in everything that is arrogant, rude and totally galling about his fellow countrymen. He always gets the girl and makes a complete fool of everybody else.

It was this unreasonable hatred of Belmondos which led me to walk through the wrong boarding gate. "The computer does not say a Mr Bickering, but it says a Mr Bickering", said a Belmondo look-alike at the check-in keyboard. When I corrected this by showing my ticket he added with a smirk: "Now you are bickering, ha ha." So distracted was I by loathing I joined the queue for the flight to Paris instead of Nice.

At Gatwick this is not difficult. At least there mistakes mean one is usually only a few European countries out, but very careful at Heathrow, Terminal Three. I once heard an awful tale of a mercenary living in South America who spent too long in the hospitality lounge and found himself on a plane to what was formerly the Congo, or had been the last time he was there. I would be the first to agree that aircraft should have destinations clearly marked on the front, like the Clapham omnibus.

So, boarding what I thought was the Nice flight, imagine my glee at finding another Belmondo sitting in my seat. He was a pretty good Galtic charm, had a pretty girl at his side and just the right amount of seven

All this is in no way offensive to the kind of Liberal mind anarchy inclined against all government, but what is more worrying is the justification that can be heard in far more respectable quarters for the liberation of civil servants from their traditional obligations.

Thus Lord Scarman, a pillar of the liberal establishment, has recently observed in his capacity as president of the Royal Institute of Public Administration that "a doctrine of accountability going beyond mere service to the Crown is now seen by the public to be what they require. Whether or not this is the public wish it is obviously Lord Scarman's, for he implies support for a former civil servant's idea that the Civil Service should develop an effective role as a constraint on arbitrary power. This can only mean that the political executive which takes its authority from the elected parliamentary majority should be under some sort of check from the unelected Civil Service. I would call that the negation of democracy."

Then, yesterday morning, a complementary motion was sponsored by the Young Liberals and others. It asserted the "continual erosion of civil liberties under the present government", citing among other examples the "Prevention of Terrorism Act; the Official Secrets Act; the law against secondary picketing and the seizure of union funds.

Lord Scarman himself favours Congressional-type committees, but these would not work without the separation of powers which makes the American system workable. But that is a detail. More substance attaches to the idea of a written constitution advocated by the Liberals and also apparently by Lord Scarman. This would do no harm but almost certainly would do no good. France has taught us how easily a written constitution can be torn up for political convenience; America how a written constitution can develop as flexibly as an unwritten one.

It is a pity the Liberals did not heed a lone voice yesterday warning them against transferring power from the ballot box to the lawyers. As for Lord Scarman he was most wrong when he criticized public administration for being exclusively political. What else should it be but the servant of the elected authority? Of course citizens should have greater access to files concerning themselves - though here the obstruction is usually bureaucratic rather than political. Of course the press must publish as much as it can get and get all it can publish. But what is not tolerable is for civil servants to run their campaigns against ministers (of any party) as though their own political convictions had prior right.

Liberal attitudes underly many Liberal arguments. The "liberal elite" which has had its way for so long cannot stomach a change of political climate. The truth is that the wider public sees measures against secondary picketing, terrorism and lawlessness as a defence of freedom. The "liberal mind" despises any regard for majority attitudes as populism. I call it democracy.

o'clock shadow on his angular jaw. What's more he seemed to be a pilot.

"I think you are in my seat," I said, pointing to my boarding card for an aircraft a quarter of a mile away. A brave man would have added: "C'mon froggie, hop off. You may work for the airline but you're not going to get a free ride in my seat." But it is a characteristic of Belmondos that they all look as if they have been in the Foreign Legion, and it makes you hate them all the more. He stood up with practised contempt, shrugged broad shoulders at his companion and departed with dignity. He was the kind of Belmondo who could wear a jacket without putting his arms in the sleeves and no one would call him a pansy.

"Have you lived in Nice long?" I said to the girl he had been sitting next to. "No," she replied. "I live just outside Paris. Do you know Paris?" "Not very well," I said. Little did I realize as they started the engines that I might soon get to know it a lot better if I remained in that seat.

They were just about to shut the doors when the tannoy crackled into life: "Could Mr Bickering see the commander?" Belmondo was, of course, lurking by the door with several smirking stewardesses. "This plane is for Paris, Monsieur." It was all he needed to say to bring the house down. An object lesson in Belmondo minimalist humour.

The bottle of Cointreau I had bought in Spain that very morning was leaking as I crashed on to the plane for Nice. At first the lady lawyer sitting next to me, an American, said I should sue the airline but became very quiet and thoughtful when I tried to explain my Belmondophobia to her. People around tittered at my mistake.

But I did manage to get my own back. When that little map with the flight plan was passed back to the cabin I changed the destination Nice to Tripoli and drew a neat line across the Med to Colonel Gaddafi's paradise. There was a bass-voiced curse behind me. You have no idea of the ecstasy at seeing it was a Belmondo who pointed at the altered map and worriedly consulted the stewardess.

Hugh Clayton
Local government correspondent



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HOPEFUL AND QUESTIONABLE

Liberal Assembly motions tend to be excessively long lists of strongly proclaimed ends with a scattering of hopeful and ill-defined means. Hidden within the portmanteau, and well covered by the surrounding generalities, can usually be found some highly questionable assertions which might even be questioned if time were given to their separate consideration. The motion passed yesterday outlining the Liberal economic strategy was no exception to this general rule. It was 46 lines long and, as Mr Richard Wainwright, the spokesman on economic affairs, put it when he recommended it to the assembly, it was divided into a macro-economic part and a micro-economic part. It was within the former that the question begging commitment, revealing the essential flaw in the strategy, was lurking.

The liberals want a strategy that would make the economy more productive; would shift it "towards high value-added and low resource use"; and would create a society in which "individuals can share in the extra wealth". Since individuals obviously would share in any extra wealth this could either mean that all would share to some extent or that all would share it equally. We shall probably never know. It would also be a society that would "permit each person to be more flexible about the allocation of his/her life between work, education and leisure", another concept that allows a certain scope for musing.

Still, the gist of these objectives is clear, especially after the explanations given by Mr Wainwright and his fellow MP Mr Archie Kirkwood. It is an expansionist strategy for a managed economy, and it is designed, in the interests of employment, to put a stop to Mrs Thatcher's control of the economy by monetary means. Mr Wainwright, applauding Mr Reagan's huge deficit, would like the same from Mrs Thatcher. "How lucky the Americans are!" he observed. Such a policy, according to the motion, and to Mr Wainwright, can be achieved without inflation by a "dual strategy of fiscal and monetary policies" for expanding money incomes, combined with "a new de-centralized system of incomes determination". In other words, the Liberal Party is still hitched to the policy it has continued to support, despite all past failures, of looking to incomes control to balance the profligacy of government. Or is it?

For when the words of the motion, not to say those of Mr Wainwright and Mr Kirkwood, are scrutinized, it is far from clear that even a believer in incomes policies could think that the new Liberal version could perform this inflation-resisting role. For the policy, it seems, would have no central aspect at all. All it would mean, according to Mr Wainwright, is that some kind of local arbitrator would determine what level of pay claim would be most likely to

promote new jobs locally. In some particular cases it might be high, and a firm would successfully plead to make the payment for that reason. So be it. But what if settlements everywhere were high on those grounds? What bulwark then would this new version of pay control offer against inflation created by the Central government? Plainly none, since Mr Kirkwood, winding up the debate, actually pointed out that whereas all previous incomes policies were designed against inflation, this one would only be for local claims and subject to local arbitration. Thus the coupling of incomes policy with expansion in the motion, as though the two had a macro-economic relationship, is meaningless.

As for the micro-economic proposals for "training, investment in the infrastructure, industrial modernization and using the tax system positively", we have been there before. The briefest and most pertinent speech yesterday was by Mr Trevor Jones, who told the delegates straight: "It's a list of desirable objectives. There isn't a clue about how we get from here to there."

The delegates did not like what he said and passed the motion as it stood but if they brooded on it in the small hours at Bournemouth, could they really believe that Mr Trevor Jones was wrong?

ONE MORE CHANCE FOR CHAD

Just over a year after he sent French troops back to Chad to thwart the Libyan invasion, President Mitterrand's gamble seems to have paid off. The Colonel, while still refusing to admit that he actually has "troops" in Chad, has agreed to a simultaneous withdrawal of French forces and of "Libyan support elements with the GUNT" - one of those splendid French acronyms which somehow convey much more about what they represent, in this instance the forces of ex-President Goukouni Oueddei, than do the words they supposedly stand for, "Gouvernement d'Union Nationale de Transition".

Just about everyone in France is relieved and delighted at the news, with some justification. "Operation Manta", as the Chad expedition was called, has achieved much more than the multinational force in Lebanon and at a far lower cost in casualties. The latter, decimated by suicide bombs, left Lebanon still largely occupied by Syrian and Israeli forces. The former has lost only twelve men - all but one of them in accidents - yet can claim to have prevented a Libyan takeover of Chad,

preserving the independence of that country.

The president of Chad, Mr Hissene Habré, has not joined in the applause. He resents, understandably, the fact that the agreement was negotiated behind his back. Yet that is not really surprising. The French have never made any secret of the fact that they are in Chad purely and simply to block the Libyan invasion and not out of any positive admiration for Mr Habré, or his government. Mr Habré in an earlier phase of his career was himself a rebel leader against a previous French-supported government.

France considers, rightly, that Chadian quarrels should be settled by negotiations *entre Tchadiens*. Mr Habré refused to accept negotiations on equal terms with Mr Goukouni, arguing that this would involve recognizing a position he had secured only with the help of Libyan troops. France stood by Mr Habré on this point, and also in refusing repeated Libyan hints that both contenders should be stopped down in favour of a *tertius quis* that was precisely the kind of intervention in Chad's internal affairs that Mitterrand was determined to avoid (and, ironically, of which the Colonel

was accusing him). If Mr Habré is now left on his own, but with only fellow-Chadians to fight, he has good reason to feel grateful to France.

That he should be sceptical of an agreement which Colonel Gaddafi has not even signed (it takes the form of a simultaneous declaration by the French and Libyan governments) is only natural; but the French themselves are taking nothing for granted. Their withdrawal will take longer than that of the Libyans and will not be completed unless on a basis of strict reciprocity. Both are to be monitored by neutral observers.

Libya does not, it is true, accept that total withdrawal should include the Aouzou Strip, which she claims as her own and has occupied since 1973. She may indeed use it again as a springboard for a new invasion in the future, but she has no reason to assume that she would do so with any greater success, for France too has shown that she can leave Chad and, if necessary, come back (last year's intervention was the third since 1965). This week's agreement at least gives the Chadians one more chance to sort out their own problems. They cannot reasonably ask more.

THE LAW MUST STAND, AT ALL COSTS

The policing of a six-month coal strike has involved every police force in the country, either as a borrower or a lender of manpower. Some elected police authorities have been embarrassed to see the police in their areas - over whom they have formal responsibility though without control over chief constables' operational decisions - deployed so forcefully against strikers with whom councillors have much political sympathy. In many more areas councillors are alarmed by the huge and unpredictable costs of an operation of unprecedented scale. Merseyside's recent plans for drastic cuts in police overtime and South Yorkshire's bid for the headlines by invoking the complex symbolism of the police horse are only two instances among many of widespread agitation in local government, based on widespread financial concern, as well as, in some cases, a political dragging of the feet.

On the face of it, the Home Secretary might seem to have resolved serious anxieties about costs by announcing that the extra costs of policing the strike would be reimbursed in full by the Government, above a sum equivalent to a penny rate for each council - a reservation intended as a nominal acknowledgement to the principle of local accountability and responsibility. Broadly this arrangement ensures that no council keeping within the Government's spending targets will suffer heavy permanent burdens. But for many of the larger councils a penny rate runs into seven figures, and any extra cost falls either on budgets harshly cut back to avoid grant penalties on overspenders, or on budgets where every expense means a loss much larger than itself, through loss of grant.

Even where no risk of penalty arises, acute cash flow problems threaten while borrower and lender councils haggle over exactly what costs qualify for reimbursement, under rules designed for far more limited exchanges of resources, and not always clear (one borrower county, Derbyshire, is withholding £9 million claimed by councils which have lent men to it, and litigation may be needed to sort the dispute out). Once such disputes are settled, the borrower authority presents its accounts to the Government and a fresh round of bargaining ensues. Up to now, the Home Office has reimbursed eight authorities with a total of £21,500,000 for extra costs in the period up to August 31, and also made advance payments of ordinary police grant of £29,500,000 to these and three other authorities, to ease cash flow problems. The overall extra cost of policing the dispute is £120 million, so this represents

only a part, though a significant one, of the whole.

Further measures to simplify a cumbersome procedure would be helpful, though some time-lag is inevitable, and the principle of a local contribution, if only a minimal one, should not be abandoned. In general it is understandable for councils to resent having to make cuts in other services to pay for these operations. The natural reaction is to confine cuts to police budgets, partly in hope of putting pressure on the Government to contribute more. Where cuts are as sharp as those planned in Merseyside, there is a real risk that public security may be endangered. South Yorkshire's plan to dispose of its horses is a crude expedient. The police committee had already asked the chief constable not to use horses on the picket lines, and the attempt to deprive him of them - even though their wider usefulness was illustrated only last Saturday by their deployment at Sheffield United football ground - has an air of pique, and might amount to a breach of the authorities' duties under the Police Act. The Home Secretary should have careful regard to the real anxieties of councils in this unprecedented situation, but in face of irresponsible or petty stunts of this kind he should remind the councils concerned forcibly of their statutory duty to safeguard public order.

What he regrettably omits is that it was the Soviet Government which made it in the first place, possible for the Nazis to come so close to enslaving Europe, through the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact of August 23, 1939.

As for the people directly concerned east of the curtain, the loss of freedom is the loss of freedom, whether coloured brown or red. Lucky are those who, having

known neither, can thus speak of one as "greatly preferable" to the other.

I remain Sir,
Yours faithfully,
R.J. WASILEWSKI,
43 High Street,
Little Shelford,
Cambridgeshire.
September 14.

Divided Europe

From Mr R. J. Wasilewski
Sir Lord Gladwyn (September 13) may be right in believing that the communist regimes imposed by the Soviet Union are preferable to the continuation of Nazi rule. He may be right in believing that the Nazis did not win largely through the heroic resistance of the Russian land, surely, other Soviet? people

What he regrettably omits is that it was the Soviet Government which made it in the first place, possible for the Nazis to come so close to enslaving Europe, through the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact of August 23, 1939.

Concern at export of works of art

From Lord Cottesloe

Sir, May I enlarge on the paragraph written by Frances Gibb (September 19) in which she refers to the call from Hestage in Danger - of which I am Chairman - for a complete overhaul of the art export system in the light of the recent sale of master drawings from Chatsworth.

That this is necessary is clear to everyone concerned with the protection of our national inheritance of works of art as a result of the very high prices paid by overseas buyers, not only for the Chatsworth drawings but also for other great masterpieces of painting, museum objects, manuscripts, etc.

Having myself acted for 18 years as Chairman of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, I am becoming increasingly worried that the whole system of export control, established by the recommendations of the Waverley committee more than 30 years ago, is unable to cope with the quite different conditions of the art market of today.

I would urge that serious consideration be given to fiscal and financial reform to enable our public museums to acquire the works of art they need whilst at the same time being scrupulously fair to owners.

Yours faithfully,
COTTESLOE,
House of Lords,
September 19.

Catholic presidency

From the Duke of Norfolk

Sir, Mr Harrington's letter (September 19) attributes to me opinions which I have never held. Neither the Bishops' Conference nor the Catholic Union need worry.

Despite my sincere and personal views I fully accept "the central unique role of the Pope in the infallibility of the Church as confirmed in Vatican II". Only last June I seized the opportunity to write to the Holy Father to affirm my loyalty to the Holy Father.

Yours faithfully,
NORFOLK,
6 Clabon Mews, SW1,
September 19.

SDP and the Falklands

From Mr M. R. Meadmore

Sir, Lord Kennet (September 17) says that the SDP does not propose to give Argentina sovereignty over the Falklands. He is right in that the SDP policy options, all of which are steps to Argentine sovereignty, are either unworkable (joint sovereignty) or unacceptable to the majority in Britain (sovereignty vested in the UN or the Organisation for Security Co-operation).

His point that Argentina did not exist 150 years ago is, in relation to Las Islas Malvinas, a spurious one. In 1829 the self-governing Province of Buenos Aires, around which Argentina was in the process of being formed, appointed a governor of Las Islas Malvinas. This led to a protest by Britain, which was followed, in 1833, by her repossession of the islands.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. MEADMORE,
8 Pennard Road, W12.

Airline competition

From Mr A. J. Lucking

Sir, Sir Michael Havers's astonishing mission to Washington indicates that the Laker liquidator is likely to be his case, which gives substance to the widespread fear that British Airways has acted in a predatory manner in the past and that it will continue to do so if its dominant position remains uncorrected.

In a recent speech, the Chairman of the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) pointed to BA's free zone on the barely profitable domestic network whilst the airline sought far increases on some "spectacularly profitable" international routes.

One could add that the current BA budget for the London-Belfast route showed a £5 loss per passenger, though the return so far has been better. Ironically, this was the first domestic route to move into profit in 1982.

On the routes from regional centres BA often has stood in the way of the lower fares proposed by the more efficient independent airlines. The airline still has to face up to reducing its flight staff, and the discommodities of the elderly Trident, and in the meanwhile, the users pay extra.

Thus, there is still a great deal wrong with British civil aviation, and the CAA has proposed some sensible remedies.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. LUCKING,
20 Broad Court,
Bow Street, WC2.

Draining the fishpond

From the Director of the British Maritime League

Sir, John Young's article (September 12) alerts us to the horrendous prospects of almost doubling the number of vessels operating in the "European fishpond" when Spain (and Portugal) join the Community. Though the 200-mile EEZ (European Economic Zone) area will be much more than doubled (including Atlantic island groups), the continental shelf area of fishing ground (and commercial stocks) will only be marginally increased.

Spanish fishermen are no respecters of restrictive regulations and Spain's demand for prime fish is insatiable. Fair catch quotas for the enlarged Community will be hard to sell.

But last week, to appease one member state of the Community, fishing ministers have weakened yet again the fledgling common fisheries policy (CFP), so dearly won last year

Post Office workers' fear of cuts

From the General Secretary of the Union of Communication Workers

Sir, Your editorial of September 18 pointed to the action of my members in shutting post offices throughout London on Monday, September 17, and the apparent perverse logic therein.

However, what the editorial missed was that this action was as a last resort, following a campaign by the union to bring to the attention of the public the real loss of post office counter services, not just in London, but throughout the country.

The irony is that it is only after having taken this industrial action the media, including your good selves, have taken any notice.

I, including my union's membership, regret the use of industrial action in these circumstances, but we are forced to the conclusion, regrettably, that this is the only way our case can gain attention. It is unfortunate in today's world that the media only respond when such actions occur.

It is estimated that the total savings that could occur to the Post Office by shutting just over 100 of the 1,500 main post offices is in the region of £3m to £4m per annum. Yet, as your editorial states, the Post Office is profitable. Last year its profits were over £100m and this was after repaying to the Government over £60m.

What we have, therefore, is a reduction in counter services out of all proportion to reduce costs. This will force the public into other offices already with reduced levels of staff and the public will, therefore, find themselves simply having to wait longer and as a consequence become more critical and irritable of post office services.

It is the members of my union working on counters that will have to bear the brunt of the customers' irritability and in some cases anger. The UCU is currently challenging the Post Office financial logic on this subject. After all, what is a profitable post office? The closure of the office that sparked off the industrial action, Cable Street post office, London, E1, was handling over 6,000 customers a week and is in an area of potential dockland redevelopment which will require post office counter services for the future. However, the Post Office have even refused to consider the need for counter services in the future.

No credit is taken for the services given at post office counters that attract no revenue. Many people, particularly in deprived areas such as Cable Street, rely on post offices as a place to go to when they have a problem or are in need of advice.

The public should be warned that the new Post Office thinking is to abandon such socially necessary services and for service only to be provided where financial transactions are profitable.

Bahais in Iran

From the Chargé d'Affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran (a.i.)

Sir, In response to the Most Rev Dr Trevor Huddleston's letter (September 7) and your Correspondent's account (August 29) on the sentences of death on "many" of the "300,000 Bahais", it is important to bring to your notice that the total number of Bahais in Iran does not exceed 10,000. The Western media have constantly engaged in propagating rumours so as to disintegrate the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Rich Bahais inside and outside Iran are continuously conspiring against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Perhaps it is they who have supplied funds for this end. It is these very few who with the aid of the affiliated groups, have taken part in conspiracies and espionage.

Under the name of God we abide by the laws of God. Only a handful of those Bahais who have actually

been arrested on criminal charges are quite obviously persecuted.

We have hundreds of Bahais who have sought refuge in Islam; perhaps it is these who your Correspondent considers have been killed. Giving up Bahainism, which is merely a political sect, is more of a revival towards perfection than death.

The world at large should know that Iran, like any other country will never allow criminals to live in peace within its boundaries, be they Muslims, Bahais, Christians or Jews. I also challenge your report, "Isolated" from Z. Fysariwsky (September 15). President Khamenei has never travelled to Saudi Arabia, nor has he had any sort of contact with the government of this country.

Yours etc,
S. J. SADATIAN,
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
27 Princes Gate, SW7,
September 19.

alternative employment? Inevitably it is the younger and more able individuals who decide to desert their birthplaces and move to the more prosperous regions; the consequential insidious destruction of the human infrastructure of the communities in a region that this loss causes makes the eventual re-establishment of alternative sources of employment in an area like North-east England all the more difficult at a future date.

The quality of society in many parts of this region, as the staple industries have decayed, has suffered for many years now because of the lack of the right action by Government. Perhaps Mr Scargill's determination in the present mining dispute may stimulate some new ideas in this direction.

Yours faithfully,
I. P. BURDON,
2 Heatherfield Place,
Melton Park,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
September 10.

Yours etc,
S. J. SADATIAN,
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
27 Princes Gate, SW7,
September 19.

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Yours etc,
S. J. SADATIAN,
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
27 Princes Gate, SW7,
September 19.

Stating the cause of death

From Dr John K. Wales

Sir, Your recent article (August 29) on the need for implementation of most, if not all, of the Brodick report was timely. However there is another problem in this area that requires improvement, namely death certification.

Death certificates are statutory documents which must be completed by a medical practitioner for every death and fulfil two requirements. The first is a medico-legal function, i.e., to state the cause of death, natural or otherwise, to allow disposal of the body. The second is an epidemiological function in which the certifying doctor attempts to document those diseases which affected the deceased in life.

Whereas the first function is reasonably effective, the second is not. The inaccuracies largely arise from the need for speed to issue the certificate for disposal of the body while the epidemiological information requires more time for accuracy. For example, in a recent survey, 30 per cent of death certificates issued at the death of a diabetic patient did not mention diabetes mellitus despite these patients regularly attending a diabetic clinic and many receiving insulin therapy and even when the certificate was issued following a post-mortem examination.

Accurate death certification is important to provide epidemiological information to assess the relationship between disease and the environment and various diseases as well as information on which the allocation of resources within the NHS can be planned as the incidence of diseases changes in the population.

In my opinion the time has come for new legislation to be enacted to divide these functions of death certification into two statutory documents. However, as your article on the Brodick report indicated, there is little political will to introduce legislation for improvement, which seems a negation of good government.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN K. WALES,
The University of Leeds,
Department of Medicine,
The Martin Wing,
The General Infirmary,
Leeds,
South Yorkshire,
September 14.

An Austrian novel

From the Austrian Ambassador

Sir, Your Vienna Correspondent reported in an article (September 1) that the seizure of Thomas Bernhard's novel *Holzfall* (*Woodcutting*) fuelled fears in publishing circles that neutral Austria is prepared to adopt the censorship habits of its Warsaw Pact neighbours. These fears are, however, totally unfounded and unjustified in view of the following facts.

The legal procedure initiated not by an authority but by an individual feeling that he has been brought into disrepute by the book's contents, resulted in a temporary seizure ordered by an independent judge.

The legal basis of the judge's findings are the provisions of the Austrian Media Act, which are in full conformity with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, in particular with its art. 10, to which Austria is a signatory.

Although this article guarantees the exercise of the freedom of expression, it permits restrictions of this right which are necessary in a democratic society, also for the protection of the reputation or rights of others.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD THOMAS,
Austrian Embassy,
12 Belgrave Mews West, SW1,
September 12.

Lord and ladies

From Dr Kieran Flanagan

Sir, The commentary on the Alternative Service Book, 1980, by the Liturgical Commission tells us that "the liturgy is a service which we have to accommodate our audience" according to class, sex, and age. Surely this advice has been taken to extremes at the Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich, where, according to the service list in *The Times* (September 15) for the Thirtieth Sunday after Trinity, Tyne's lovely anthem, "Laudate Nomen Domini", is to be rendered as "Laudate Women Domini".

Is this now to be the anthem of tokenism, the song of incorporation of the Anglican Church adaptable to all social groups as, for instance, "Laudate Microbiologists Domini"?

I write as a distressed Roman Catholic sociologist with a passing interest in liturgy.

Yours faithfully,
KIERAN FLANAGAN,
University of Bristol,
Department of Sociology,
12 Woodland Road,
Bristol,
Avon,
September 15.

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September 15.

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The Henley Centre

A look at the self-financing centre, whose motto is 'making business forecasts make business sense', on its tenth anniversary

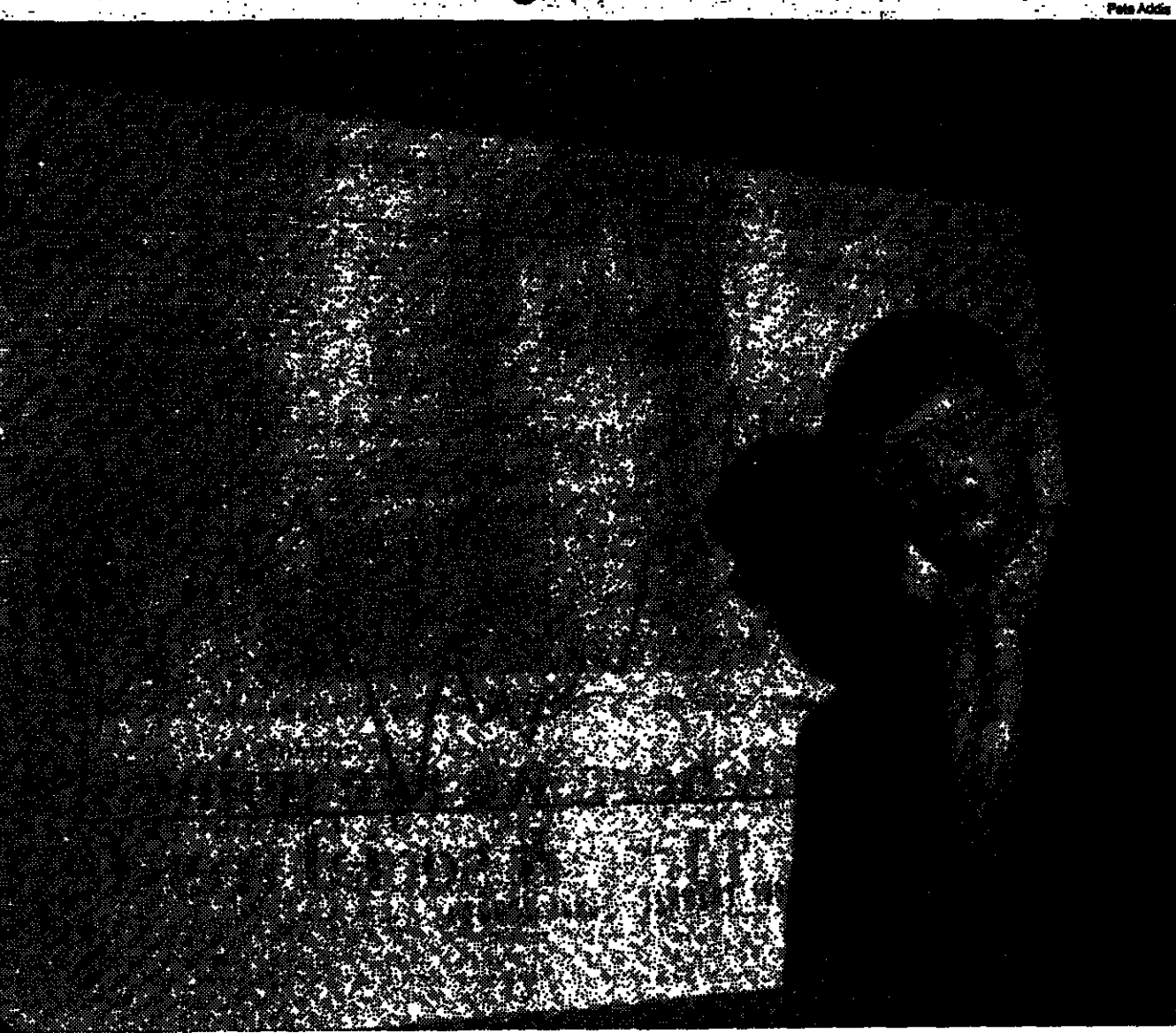
The Henley Centre's tenth anniversary is a little misleading. It rests on the centre's establishment in its present form, as an independent non-profit-making organization, in 1974. But for some years before that the centre's founders had been publishing forecasts, in the beginning under the aegis of the Society of Business Economists.

The centre represents "town" to the "gown" of the top academic economic forecasters - the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, the London Business School and the other members of the Economic and Social Research Council's consortium. It does not receive any government grant although it will work willingly enough for any part of government on contract: its recently published *Full Circle Into the Future* was financed by Telford Development Corporation.

So the self-financing centre's relationship with its academic brethren can become a little edgy, particularly when their grants are due for review by a government inclined to look sceptically at state pensioners. But as its director, Hywel Jones, pointed out to me, there is no real competition between them.

"The academic organizations produce forecasts which are largely policy orientated", Mr Jones said, "while we are mainly producing forecasts for use by businessmen."

He is, however, very careful to emphasize the centre's academic credentials, arguing that his staff now probably have better academic qualifications than most university economics departments (at least partly because these are now staffed with 40-year-olds taken on board during the expansionary 1960s, while the staff of the Henley Centre have an average age of 29, and



Looking to the future: Hywel Jones, director and chief executive of the Henley Centre for Forecasting, and the organization's headquarters in the Fleet Street district of London

years two up to 10 for the board". But he believes that genuine interest in long-range planning has increased with the revival of economic growth.

The centre has, indeed, made something of a specialization in what Mr Jones is determined not to call "futurology". As he rightly says, this particular art was heavily oversold in the 1960s: based on hunch - sometimes very smart hunch - it was not systematic and therefore "it was never possible to check where it went wrong". The second phrase, of which Mr Jones is equally contemptuous, was "spurious scientific" - the approach which produced so many versions of apocalypse, of which the best-known practitioners were the "Club of Rome".

The centre's approach today is, Mr Jones, says "conceptually different". "We aim to sort out what is possible, on the basis of known demographic and other trends, and then to show what might accelerate or constrain the developments we indicate, in order to assist judgment about the future." Just as an example, he pointed out the decline in purchasing power among the young, both because their numbers are shrinking and their unemployment rate is high.

When I asked him where he saw his main competition, the answers were, inevitably, predominantly American - the Futures Group, or the Institute for the Future in California. In Britain there was very little long-range analysis offered to business although Mr Jones commended two groups of academics - at Warwick (on employment) and Sussex (on science) - and also the long-term work being done by a group in the Department of Trade and Industry.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

It can claim to be the biggest forecasting organization of its type in Europe

were recruited when competition was stiffer). Out of a staff of just over 30, 16 have postgraduate qualifications in econometrics - a strength which compares very favourably with most other forecasting groups.

Mr Jones himself is distinguished academically, with a Cambridge first and research scholarship, a lectureship at Warwick and another at Oxford before he joined the centre in 1977, to make his living in the market place. He is a considerable asset to an organization whose name was, in the early days, perhaps rather too closely

associated with the reputation of a single name, James Morrell.

The centre also suffered, ironically, from an early run of luck in exchange-rate forecasting, which led some of its clients to believe it was possessed of an infallible crystal ball, and to resent the slightest failure.

Now, Mr Jones said cheerfully, the proportion of the centre's clients who believe its forecasts implicitly has diminished considerably - a welcome change, in his view, since forecasts are "not a substitute for thought". And it is not a change which has prevented the centre

growing to a position where it now has as many as 1,500 clients in 75 countries, and can claim to be the biggest independent non-profit-making business forecasting organization in Europe.

Subscriptions to regular macro-economic forecasts have grown only slowly (indeed, for a time they actually declined). This is a market crowded with free material, not only from academic forecasters but from stockbrokers and banks - although it is an open question how many will be able to afford such large general research departments as the City of

London shakes down into its new shape). "One-off" publications (like *Full Circle Into the Future*) bring in variable income; seminars, which the centre increasingly conducts for individual companies, are a steady business.

For example, the centre conducts 30 a year for the American bank Manufacturers Hanover - a single example of its considerable success in attracting American business without even opening an office in the US.

But the market which is growing fastest is in studies for individual industrial companies

or banks - based, often, on disaggregated forecasts of a particular sector of the economy, but backed up with the social and demographic work through which the centre attempts to give meaning to its claim to provide a picture of the "total business environment".

The centre produces long-range forecasts - sometimes very long-range indeed - though the word "forecast" is then not used. Companies require long-term forecasts partly because, as Mr Jones said, while most are only seriously interested in the coming year, "they need to fill in

ON OTHER PAGES

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'Half the money I spend on advertising is wasted. The problem is I don't know which half'

Times don't change. Only budgets.

Which is why the words above, written more than 40 years ago, still strike home with the force of a Rapier Ground-to-Air Missile.

Of course we believe that research can help.

The right research - not the kind done to cover our backs against the slings and arrows of an outrageous client.

But what research can't do is to produce Gear Campaigns.

Campaigns which, because of their sheer power and memorability, seem to expand a budget rather than contract it.

Campaigns that go on working long after the media spend has ceased.

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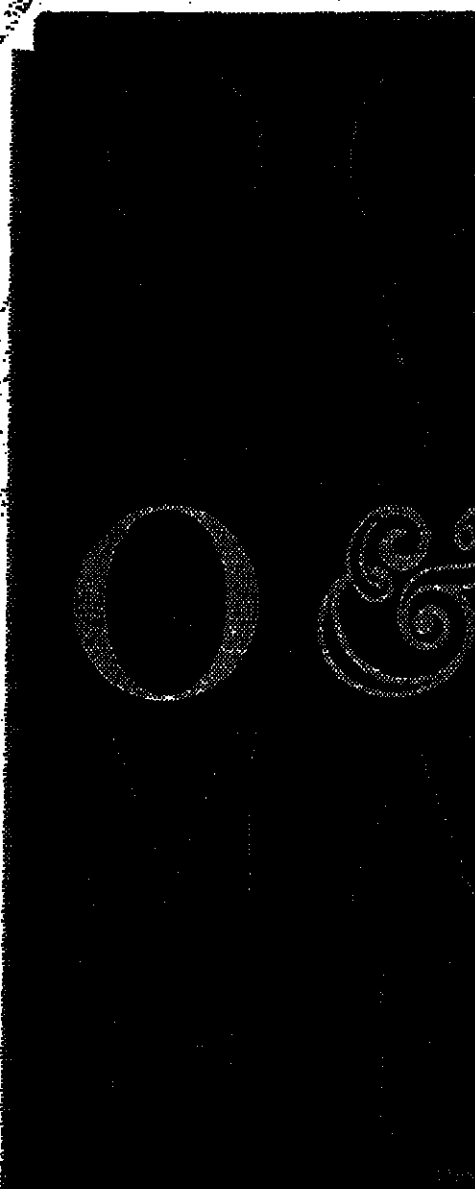
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Energy shortages and lack of food? Well, not quite...

Full Circle into the Future is the Henley Centre's most searching publication for some time: an ambitious series of projections of life in the UK in the twenty-first century, sponsored by The Telford Development Corporation.

The report does not have a single theme, either apocalyptic or triumphant. Instead it is an impressive compilation of information on social, industrial and economic trends. But its broad theme is generally optimistic. On world prospects generally, it follows most international organizations in forecasting an eventual stabilization of population below seven billion.

Similarly, it accepts the evidence now available that there is no global food problem, only a "maldistribution", together with failures of production: lack of skills at government and local level which have led to an inability to grow or distribute food in some of the world's poorest regions.

Inevitable

The Henley Centre is also broadly optimistic about energy resources, which it believes will be adequate for all likely levels of demand right into the twenty-first century. As a final antidote to gloom, it holds that raw material resources are also adequate for all likely levels of demand into the next century. Such modified optimism is by

Optimism about the future

no means unusual. But the Henley Centre is also cautiously hopeful about employment prospects, although it believes rapid changes are inevitable. It argues, in a chapter on new technologies in the report, that their profitable application need not lead to general unemployment - but that they do call into question many of the conventions of the industrial organization.

In discussing lifestyles, the report draws heavily on demographic changes. It points, for example, to the new importance of the single-person household, and the dramatic growth in the proportion of the population concentrated in the 25 to 44 year-old age group. It believes, with qualifications, that the "leisure society" is a feasible development.

This sums up its answers to three out of five of what the report considers "great debates": on scarcity, technology and lifestyles. That leaves two - the economic and political debates. On politics, the report draws on a 10-year survey of social attitudes. Its conclusions

are that there will continue to be a "retreat of the state" from many activities, and a degree of fragmentation in politics.

Which leaves, of course, the British economy. Here the report is a bit divided. On the international environment, it does believe that "mildly expansionary policies" will eventually come to lead the OECD economies back to relatively high growth rates and low inflation.

Profound danger

It believes that the productive potential in the industrial countries as a group (the 24 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) will be sufficient to accommodate growth rates of over 5 per cent a year for the next 25 years, and that the world will come some way towards achieving such results.

For the UK, the report argues that there is a "profound danger" that present economic policies will lead Britain along a downward path; but it argues that the feasible rate of growth is much higher than many commentators recognize. Despite these warnings, however, the report remains quite optimistic about Britain's long-term growth and inflation prospects.

Financial staff

Though the Henley Centre is still probably best known as an economic forecasting organization, it prides itself on the fact that its attempts to predict the future cover more than simply economic facts. Some of its most interesting research is now directed at predicting how society in a broader sense is likely to change.

Population changes, eating habits and the attitudes of divorcees are just some of the many non-economic factors which the Henley Centre now regularly endeavours to forecast. Social forecasting has proved a considerable success, and one which looks like becoming increasingly important in the centre's work.

Bob Tyrrell, an Oxford graduate, who first joined the centre 10 years ago, has been its director of social research since 1980. Today he presides over a full-time staff of seven engaged on social research. Together with a panel of regular outside contributors, they are responsible for the production of three regular publications which are sold commercially to industry and other clients.

Where we are going - a look at social trends

These are Planning for Social Change, a massive annual survey of British social trends for which some 30 subscribers pay £2,850 each and two quarterly publications with a sharper focus, Planning Consumer Markets and Leisure Futures.

According to Mr Tyrrell: "The centre has always seen itself as different from its competitors. It has always attempted to build social and technological factors into its economic forecasts because our constituency is business rather than academia or policy makers. Businessmen's interest is in what is likely to happen in the real world rather than what would happen if this or that variable were to change."

The Henley Centre's move to answer this kind of question by building up its social research

capability was given impetus towards the end of the 1970s when it was joined by Michael Shanks, a former director of social affairs in the EEC who later became chairman of the National Consumers Council and sadly died earlier this year. "He had a view - or mission even - that business needed planning service that was not just unemployment, inflation and pound notes," says Mr Tyrrell. Planning for Social Change was launched in 1978, and the course was set. The more enlightened companies in industry were already aware that something more than simple economic forecasting was needed for their corporate planning.

And whereas it was the corporate planners and public affairs executives of the big industrial companies which

were the initial purchasers of the Henley social forecasts, they have been increasingly joined in recent years by the marketing men of consumer companies, says Mr Tyrrell.

A company that is looking for new markets or wondering how its existing customer base is going to develop wants to know not just what is going to happen to consumer spending as a whole - the macroeconomic statistic - but what will happen to the particular spending habits, aims and aspirations of each different class and spectrum of society.

Demographic changes can be very important, for example. "We know," says Mr Tyrrell, "that over the next 10 years we are going to see the end of the so-called youth markets. This is because the number of young people is going to decline precipitously, and it is probable also that their spending power

will be restricted. If you are in a consumer market like clothing, therefore, it is more than likely that in the future you will want to shift your attentions to the 25 to 44 year-olds."

Apart from its regular publications, the Henley Centre will also carry out specific studies for clients to order. For one of the country's big brewers, it carried out an in-depth study of the future of the pub. For a well-known high street retailing chain, it explored the future spending habits of the middle-aged.

More prosaically, it has done forecasts of the canned food market. All the research is thorough and wide-ranging, but does not shirk from incorporating elements of intuition. Mr Tyrrell says, indeed, the centre's willingness to have a stab at "the more intangible things" is one of its best selling points, he believes.

"We are not just dealing with money but with people's loves, hates and fears," he says. "They are not measurable."

Jonathan Davis

1984/85 SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Wed. 14th November	Corporate Plans The medium-term perspective	Dorchester Hotel Ballroom Suite
Tues. 18th December	Leisure Futures Products, services and retailing	Carlton Tower Hotel Ballroom Suite
Wed. 16th January	Freight Transport Key issues and forecasts	Cumberland Hotel Anglia Suite
Wed. 13th February	Foreign Exchange Rates FX analyses, forecasts and World business prospects	Cumberland Hotel Anglia Suite
Wed. 20th February	Consumer Markets Changing rules of the game	Cumberland Hotel Anglia Suite
Wed. 6th March	Britain into the 21st Century Key issues for corporate planning	Dorchester Hotel Ballroom Suite
Wed. 17th April	The UK Economy Budget analysis and business forecasts	Cumberland Hotel Anglia Suite

Seminar rates per delegate: £125 + VAT.
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For all enquiries concerning the Centre's services please contact David Chalk or Lesley Cowen, the Henley Centre for Forecasting, 2 Tudor Street, Blackknairs, London EC4Y 0AA. Telephone: 01-353 9961. Telex: 298817.

The
Henley
Centre
for Forecasting
—10—
anniversary
1974-1984

Why they come to the talking shop

As well as its published forecasts, the Henley Centre organizes a series of seminars each year at which senior businessmen discuss the forecasts and chip in with their own views of what is likely to happen.

According to Hywel Jones, director of the Henley Centre, the programme of seminars that has been built up over the five years has become one of its most popular and successful innovations. He says the seminars are typical of the way in which Henley has developed from its original narrow forecasting base into a larger and more ambitious organisation. They are also a useful source of revenue.

"We make money out of the seminars," says Mr Jones, "but they also have an important feedback purpose. We have

people who have come here for years who feed back how they see what is happening in the economy."

In its promotional material, the centre likes to make much of the fact that since 1979 its public seminars have been attended by representatives of more than 730 of the top 1000 companies in Britain.

New projects

The Henley Centre's seminar work falls into several categories. The first is a group of one-day public seminars, held in London hotels, at which the centre's staff and invited panel speakers make presentations on likely developments in the economy or other specified topics. This year there are seven of these seminars, covering

corporate planning, freight transport, the leisure industry, foreign exchange rates and a post-Budget briefing on the UK economic outlook.

The centre charges a fee of £125 for each seminar, with a £15 discount for subscribers to its regular forecasts or other services.

The second area of seminar work in which the Henley Centre is involved is a series of summer briefing sessions, held at the centre and on a smaller scale than the one-day public events. These, according to Mr Jones, are similar to teaching seminars with more scope for feedback between staff and delegates. The subject matter tends to be specialised, for example on demographic change or - the most popular

subject of all - forecasting methods.

The centre also arranges in-company seminars. These can range from a simple session with the board of a company, to one involving a wider group of executives. Computer companies, brewers, advertising agencies and even a regional gas board have hired the Henley Centre for this purpose.

Big following

The emphasis in these functions is on analysing "the total business environment", which means a package of economic, social, political and technological factors which are built into its forecasting and research services.

The Henley Centre has also built up a reputation overseas,

based largely on the success of the foreign exchange seminars which it has run for the American bank, Manufacturers Hanover, for the last five years. These have acquired a big following, and involve a series of city-to-city tours.

The centre says that between four and five thousand people, including the finance directors and treasurers of many leading international companies, attend these sessions every year.

Finally, the Henley Centre has had its own international foothold since 1980, when it started running seminars under its own name in Hong Kong. These cover not only foreign exchange forecasts, but also other topics such as marketing.

JD

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The macro model: Great Britain in miniature

The Henley Centre produces and publishes a macroeconomic forecast for the UK on its own econometric model. Its forecasting director, Paul Ormerod, is engaged in wholesale rebuilding of the model, whose new version should be on stream early next year. He can call on eight or nine people working directly on the model, and 14 or 15 practising econometricians in the organization.

But all forecasts are as much a matter of human judgment as efficient econometrics, both in the assumptions fed in and the adjustment of "residuals" (economic behaviour is not always explicable by simple equations, which have to include residual terms whose use requires a considerable degree of judgment). This is immediately obvious in the centre's use of another model: it provides services for the House of Commons library, through which MPs can apply to test their economic notions on the published version of the Treasury's on model of the economy.

When the Treasury model was first released in the 1970s, its use was both popular and highly controversial. Now Mr Ormerod detects a certain falling-off in interest, although for politicians it is the only freely-available model on which to try out policies.

And models are, as Mr Ormerod says, primarily tools for testing options rather than for producing a single vision of the future. Just the same, all serious forecasting organizations do feel an obligation to produce a "point forecast" and accept that they are judged partly by its success.

In recent years, the Henley Centre has been proved rather too pessimistic about the course of inflation, a fault it shared in common, however, with many British forecasters. Its latest medium-term forecast (see table) illustrates its belief that inflation has now bottomed out and is on a rising trend, both here and abroad; and indeed that British inflation will exceed the international average before the end of the decade. It also, in common with many forecasters, suggests a slowdown in growth in 1986-87, and increasing unemployment throughout the decade.

But much of the centre's work is not in macroeconomic forecasting but in producing "disaggregated" forecasts of particular sectors of the market for particular clients. This, says Mr Ormerod, is the most serious forecasting work. "Businesses are going to take hard decisions based on what you tell them."

Financial staff

TOMORROW'S WORLD. Henley's summary forecast (September 1984)

World	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Percentage change in industrial countries:						
Output	4.5	2.8	2.6	1.9	3.1	2.8
Prices	5.3	5.5	6.1	6.3	6.6	7.7
United Kingdom						
Percentage change in:						
Output	2.0	2.4	1.2	1.7	2.1	2.3
Prices	5.2	5.1	6.4	7.0	8.1	8.0
Unemployment (millions)	3.04	3.09	3.16	3.25	3.33	3.36
R£ exchange rate	1.37	1.43	1.49	1.46	1.40	1.33
Oil prices (\$/b) % change	-1.5	0.0	+4.5	+5.0	+5.0	+7.5

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HENLEY CENTRE

The question of whether shopping for food will cease to be a chore and become a pleasurable activity is one of the elements examined in a study on The Future of The High Street which the Henley Centre has just completed for the Ogilvy & Mather advertising agency.

Surveys undertaken for specific clients, usually on a confidential basis, represent an increasing part of the centre's activities, accounting for perhaps 50 per cent of its revenue. The scope can vary from technical computer models of the likely future performance of particular products to a broad examination of a business environment.

Changing attitudes to shopping is one of the more than 20 demographic and technological as well as social trends analysed in the High Street exercise. Although the results contain certain signposts - a return of the specialist trader; an increase in shopping as a leisure activity they do not offer a ready-made answer as to whether this will take place in or around a superstore or in a traditional High Street.

Instead they identify a range of variables which are intended to be interpreted by people who Alan Wolfe, the director at Ogilvy & Mather who commissioned the survey, describes as "close to the marketing coalface".

The centre believes that a close interaction with its client organization - starting with a definition of the questions which it wants answering and continuing through analysis to interpretation - is an important part of the service it provides.

The process of defining "what is a High Street?" for instance led to the identification of the fact that its fortunes depend on a variety of ingredi-



The ultimate shopping centre, Oxford Street, London: The Henley Centre can spot retail trends that may not be noticed by the business community

An extra pair of hands in the High Street revolution

ents which cross-fertilize each other.

Mr Wolfe uses the analogy of the beekeeper and the orchard owner to illustrate how different types of traders can have a shared interest which is not immediately obvious. In other words, the disappearance of any of a number of shared amenities - such as car parks, bus routes - as well as key traders.

The immediate practical reason that Ogilvy & Mather signed a three-year exclusive agreement with the centre

however was not for any social reason but because it believes that it may be able to improve its own cash flow through giving advisers better advice about future market requirements.

The relationship which has developed between the two organizations has been applied to narrowly defined product sectors.

Mr Wolfe describes the results of one particular economic modelling exercise as "quite remarkable". Undertaken for an individual product

the model enabled a turning point in sales to be accurately predicted 18 months ahead.

There are many other examples of how information about what the centre described as "The Total Business Environment" can help marketing decisions. An awareness of the increasing tendency for shoppers to buy groceries in weekly consignments, for instance, contributed to a conclusion in the early 1970s that the hatchback was the most appropriate car design.

For some organizations, the Henley Centre's main value is that it represents an extra pair of hands. Paul Dowling, corporate planning director of Asda Stores, the fast-growing subsidiary of the Associated Dairies group, for instance, sees its role as that of augmenting a small internal strategic planning team. As Mr Dowling points out, Asda, which has just reported an increase of £21.5m to bring annual operating profits to nearly £82m, has lower administration costs than most of its competitors.

He describes the relationship with the centre as providing "technical resources which are bigger than anything we would feel sensible to develop in-house" as well as "ready access to a bunch of people with good brains and a broader perspective".

The centre's own view is that although thinking about the future does not guarantee "good" decisions it can minimize the danger of "bad" decisions which are based on incorrect information.

It welcomes commissions from specific clients not only because it can recycle the revenue but also, in some cases, add to a store of knowledge which in turn may be reapplied in a wider context.

How food fits in the shopping scene

It is easy to see why the title A Zero-Sum Game was adopted for a 20-month research project into the relationship between food manufacturers and retailers. The phrase describes a conflict in which there are no winners - one participant's gains and the others' losses cancel out precisely.

The food manufacturers' argument was (and still is) that undue pressures on their prices by retailers would operate to everyone's disadvantage, leading ultimately to fewer new products and less choice between existing brands.

Initiated by the Food Manufacturers Federation, the project was sponsored by the A. C. Nielsen research company. The Henley Centre, which had not previously examined the retail sector - but was seeking to widen its base away from a dependence on industrial companies - was invited to study the issues. The food manufacturers' aim was to obtain some fresh and impartial thinking about an area where there were deep rooted anxieties.

The most tangible outcome was a voluminous 437-page report which describes a variety of economic, social, technological and political trends but also contains many explicit forecasts on topics ranging from retailer finance and planning to technological innovations.

These were presented at a day-long seminar held in May 1982 which was attended by nearly 200 delegates representing more than 100 organizations.

The Henley Centre insisted that a seminar should be held because it wanted to "permeate ideas rather than just produce a document which would moulder on people's shelves".

The research process involved numerous working seminars with senior executives in the food industry. A year and a half later, Henry Hall, corporate trading projects manager of Birds Eye Wall's who was one of the participants, still considers that the process was worthwhile. As far as he is concerned it helped by "reinforcing the realisation that we were not just involved

in the frozen food business but operated in a wider market".

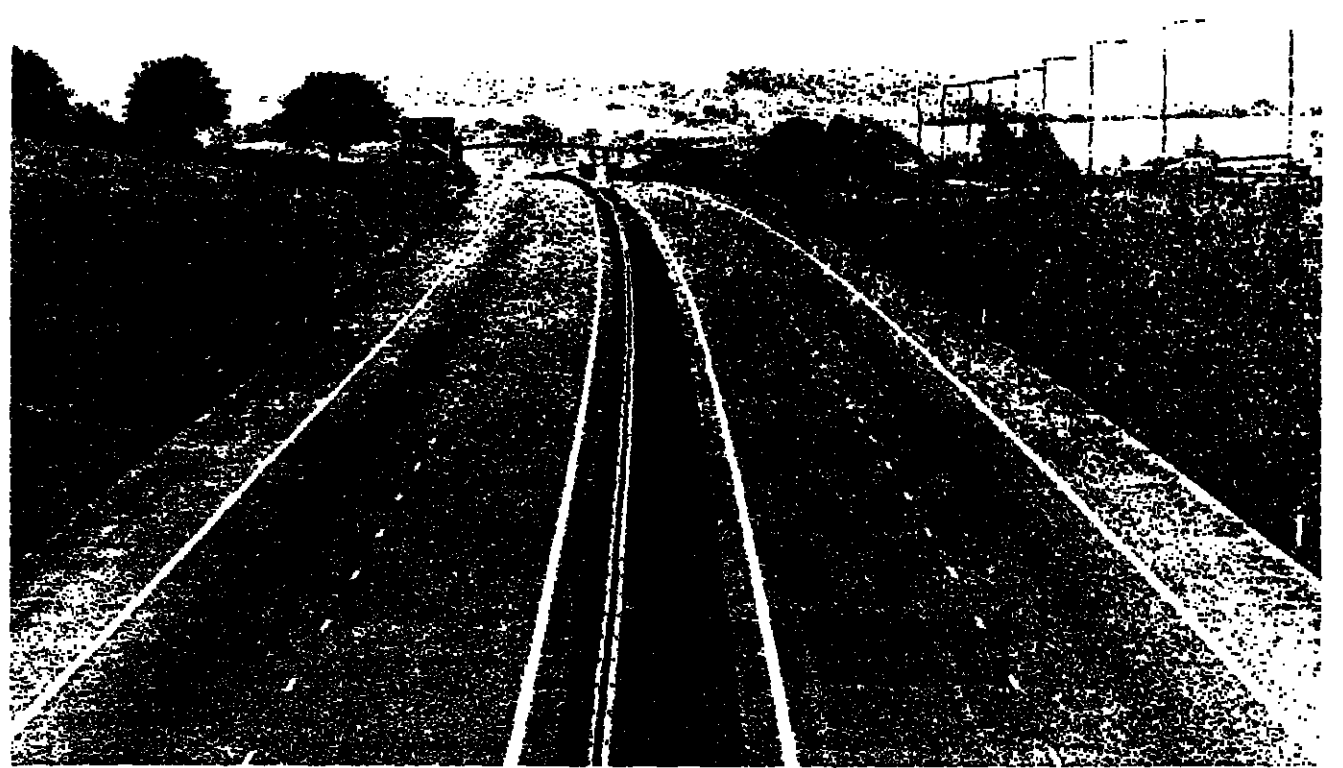
Jim Hollins, general manager and director of the consumer division of Kimberley-Clark, who also took part in the preliminary discussions says it has helped subsequently "by underlining our strategic thinking about areas such as the growing importance of products for older age people".

While the seminar was not as well attended by retailers as the organizers had hoped, there are signs of influence beyond the immediate circle of delegates.

Paul Dowling, corporate planning director of Asda Stores, for instance, is one of retail executives who read the report even though they did not attend the conference. Mr Dowling felt sufficiently impressed that conclusions (such as the forecast that the number of superstores would stabilize at around 740 by the late 1980's) were sufficiently in line with the company's own thinking to commission the Henley Centre directly.



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HENLEY CENTRE

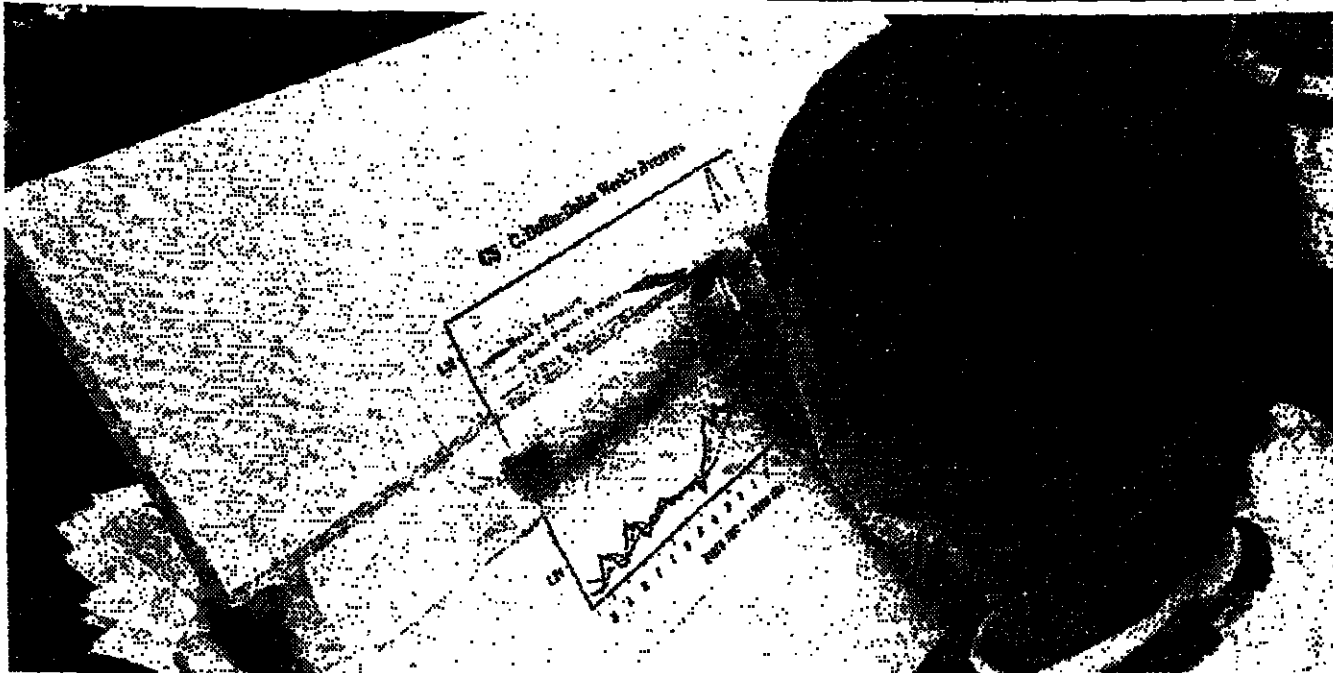


Figure 1: Henley Centre Forecast

Keeping ahead of the currency yo-yo

Few people need reminding that the volatility of international currencies has become a key and awkward feature of the economic scene. Holidaymakers and businessmen alike have watched the value of the pound yo-yo up and down against the dollar in the past five years. They have had to learn to live with foreign exchange rate movements which even the experts in the City frequently seem incapable of interpreting - let alone forecasting - correctly.

It was commonplace among the pundits earlier this year for example that 1984 would turn out to be the year in which the dollar would finally start to weaken: nine months on, they are still waiting for it to happen.

It is hardly surprising therefore that currency forecasting should have become something of an industry in itself. The Henley Centre has been at the game of predicting exchange rate movements longer than most in a big way for at least 10 years. It numbers at least 1,000 companies and banks among its clients, including - so it says - 30 central banks.

It produces a number of forecasts, including a monthly forecast of the pound's value against the dollar, the yen, the Hong Kong dollar and the Mexican peso. It also produces a quarterly forecast of the pound's value against the dollar, the yen, the Hong Kong dollar and the Mexican peso. It also produces a quarterly forecast of the pound's value against the dollar, the yen, the Hong Kong dollar and the Mexican peso.

Last year the centre had one of its greatest successes when it forecasted successfully the sharp decline of the Hong Kong dollar, when few in the colony themselves were expecting it. As a result when the Henley team arrived there for their foreign exchange seminar in the summer, they found themselves instant media stars, courted by local television and press anxious for their latest opinions.

It is not always like that, as Mr Hywel Jones, the centre's director admits. The centre has had its fair share of failures over the years. Like everybody else, for

example, it has been caught out by the sharp rise in the value of the dollar over the past few years. "We are by no means infallible," he says.

He points out however: "We are doing 18 currencies against the dollar or the pound. That makes more than 150 cross-rates which are being forecast every month. Summarizing our track record is very difficult. What tends to happen is that one group of clients will say our forecasts are marvellous, while another will say they are long, depending on where they come from. The simplest evidence we have is the fact that 90 per cent of our subscribers choose to resubscribe every year."

In any case, Mr Jones says, the forecasts should always be treated with caution. They should be stimulants, rather than substitutes for thought. "The clients who please us most are those who ring up and challenge what we have said," Mr Jones says. "It shows they are not treating it as gospel truth, which it is not."

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In theory, there could hardly have been a better period to launch an independent and business-orientated forecasting service than 1974-75. The Middle East oil crisis, power cuts, bomb scares and the aftermath of the three-day working week all combined to create unprecedented insecurity. Industrialists badly needed impartial guidance about economic trends to formulate future business plans.

In practice, the Henley Centre for Forecasting had a thin time getting established after it was inaugurated in its present form in September 1974. This was partly because of its own internal and not always amicable processes of evolution, but also because companies were simply not used to the idea of paying for a private forecasting service.

At a period when current marketing budgets were being axed overnight to ease immediate pressures on cash flow, a budget for external forecasts was seen as a marginal extra of dubious value.

However the centre had several features which distinguished it from its counterparts and which won it a hearing from industrialists. One of these was that it explicitly stated the assumptions about government policy, trade union behaviour and commodity prices on which it based its projections.

This had and still has the advantage that, at worst, it offers the means whereby the elements of what went wrong in a forecast can be sorted out and corrected should a similar situation occur again.

A second distinguishing feature was that from the outset the Henley Centre invited discussion from individual subscribers via telex or the telephone. This means that information can be tailored to particular requirements and can also be updated to take account of changes.

Born in a time of crisis, still going strong in the recession

Centre and the college:
showcases for each other

The advisory service has the students' standard training courses. The centre's standard training courses have always had a wide range of people with managerial backgrounds. One of the good things about our contact with them is that it helps to keep our feet on the ground."

Senior members of the centre's staff continue to lecture on the college's standard training courses. "Henley College has always had a wide range of people with managerial backgrounds. One of the good things about our contact with them is that it helps to keep our feet on the ground."

Despite the obvious difficulties of coping with inquiries on a large scale the advisory service was maintained when the partnership was restructured into its present form and the scope of its operations widened after an affiliation with the Henley Management College in 1974.

Close liaison

The affiliation with the college is reinforced by the change of name which was a third important factor in re-asserting business clients that forecasts produced by the centre would be relevant to their operations.

The two organizations have no legal or financial links but close liaison is maintained through a council of management chaired by Professor Tom Kempner, who is also principal of the Henley College. The relationship helps with marketing in the sense that each acts as "a shop window" for the other.

The centre's legal structure, that of a non-profit research institution recognized by the authorities as an educational charity was hammered out during almost a year of discussions with the college. These were started in the summer of 1973 following an approach by James Morrell who was then in ill health and anxious to ensure the continuity of the service he had founded.

As well as the change of name, endorsement by the management college brought a change of orientation towards the present motto of "making business forecasts make business sense."

For its part, the college had always considered the forecasts produced by James Morrell Associates to be a valuable adjunct to its courses, maintains Professor Kempner. "In order to teach effectively," he ex-

plains, "you have to tell students something about the world in which they are going to have to operate."

Senior members of the centre's staff continue to lecture on the college's standard training courses. "Henley College has always had a wide range of people with managerial backgrounds. One of the good things about our contact with them is that it helps to keep our feet on the ground."

The two organizations are currently collaborating on a part of the distance learning programme introduced by the college in 1983. The centre's personnel also contributed for example to a large scale exercise in management development which the college operated for the National Freight Corporation, one of a number of organizations which have had courses designed to meet their particular requirements.

This particular request followed de-nationalization and the management buy-out of the NFC and involved helping executives make the adjustment from public to private sector ownership.

While they freely advertise each other's services and, if requested, will make recommendations, the forecasting centre and the college do not market joint packages.

"We took the view a long time ago that it would not be right to sell one thing in the guise of another," explains Professor Kempner. Nevertheless, there are a large number of companies who use the facilities of both organizations.

Increasingly, in recent years, the college has been requested to design and run courses as a result of influences stemming from forecasts commissioned by the centre. Examples include Bowmaker, The Civil Aviation Authority, Volvo and Esso. In terms of publicity, the centre probably has a much higher profile than the college nowadays mainly because its monthly forecasts and public seminars are widely reported.

The absence of any financial patronage has meant that the funding for all the centre's resources, including computing facilities which are large enough to be the envy of the Bank of England's economics department, have stemmed from the sale of services.

While there was a setback

and some consolidation as a result of a contraction in industrial companies in 1980-81, the centre resumed growth in 1982, its operating revenue for 1983 was nearly £300,000, and the figures for the year ending August 31, 1984 are expected to reach nearly £1m. The original base of subscriptions for monthly publications has been augmented by several additional areas of activity. These include the organization of working seminars for companies, one-off research exercises such as "Full Circle: Into the Future", a confidential survey commissioned by individual organizations for internal use.

Trends analysis

There were two areas of diversification which proved particularly helpful in bringing new business to the centre. These were the Forecasts of Exchange Rate Movements introduced in 1974-75 and available monthly to subscribers. Around 1,000 organizations subscribe to this service, and Hywel Jones claims it represents the world's largest exchange rate forecasting.

The second was the analysis of trends affecting social change which started in 1977-78 and which makes a significant contribution to the one-off research exercises and to the special studies undertaken for individual companies.

The centre has chalked up an impressive record during 10 years in its present format and

its 20 or so years of operation overall. While it has not always been right, its economic forecasts according to the ebullient Mr Jones (who will produce charts to prove it) have been consistently better than those of anyone else.

"Though unemployment was not as good as GDP, the numbers we predicted for the 80-81 recession, for instance, were so accurate they were mind-boggling," Mr Jones said.

His private yardstick for success relative to other organizations, however, is the level of resources built up by the centre. The team of 33 economists, mathematicians and other professionals at the centre (out of a total payroll of 46) is not only larger but also younger and better qualified than the economics departments of most universities he maintains. He also says the centre's team of professionals is larger than that of The National Institute for Economic and Social Research, the Federation of British Industries or even The Treasury.

A somewhat dismissive attitude to the track record in specific forecasts stems from a philosophy that the discussions about what might go wrong in the forecasts are as important as the forecasts.

A fractional variation in the number forecast for exchange rates and the actual outcome may make an important difference to some business decisions whereas for others it might not matter.

"We are not magicians. From the beginning, our most loyal clients have been those who are the most aware that our forecasts might be wrong. They use them as an input to their thinking: part of a discussion, rather than a crystal ball."

PT

Has the British housewife
a future?

The British housewife is a very important person to Asda.

She's our best customer.

So to effectively plan our future we need to know something about hers.

What will she and her family be eating and drinking 10, 20, 30 years from now?

How will they spend their leisure time?

How will they dress?

What shape will shopping take?

Given the present social trends, will the British housewife still be around in a few years time?

It's vital to our long-term strategy that we find reliable answers to questions like these.

That's why we have such a close working relationship with the Henley Centre for Forecasting.



The sooner we can identify the changes in consumer needs the sooner we can meet them.

And as our past so amply demonstrates, that's the way to have a successful future in retailing.

ALL TOGETHER BETTER
Asda
SUPERSTORES

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Executive directors of Henley Centre for Forecasting - front, left to right: John Sharples, Hywel Jones, Paul Ormerod; back: Robert Tyrrell, Barry Staniford and John Rigg

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Richard Ellis
Chartered Surveyors

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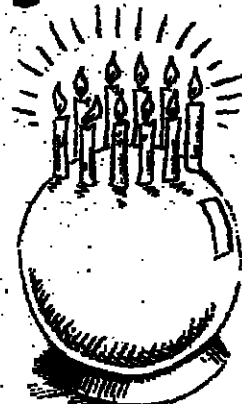
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TO THE HENLEY CENTRE FOR FORECASTING
FROM HENLEY, THE MANAGEMENT COLLEGE.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Pound steadier but the miracle more doubtful

After Mr Nigel Lawson's "orisis, what crisis" quip at the airport, it is little short of astonishing that the pound should have staged a recovery yesterday when the mark was still sinking against the dollar. Perhaps, he is a good psychologist. Time will tell. Meanwhile the latest earnings and output statistics suggest that the apparently motiveless antipathy of the foreign exchange markets towards sterling was once again not wholly without foundation.

Quite apart from the usual caveats about one set of figures, the underlying import of the productivity statistics is more than usually hard to pin down. It was certainly the coal strike that led to a 0.9 per cent drop in output in the second quarter, cancelling out the first quarter gain for 1984 but still leaving output 2.6 per cent higher over 12 months. That is on the average of the measures of gross domestic product, with the usual puzzling variations between the three.

Far more worrying is the apparent jump in unit wage costs in the three months to July, now up 5.5 per cent over 12 months in manufacturing. Productivity, rather than wage rises, is primarily to blame, so the coal strike may have exerted some influence. That still leaves rising pay as a threat to any further cuts in inflation. Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary rightly called the rise in unit wage costs "a most serious warning for the future of this country" at a time when such costs have been falling in Germany and Japan.

There must now be some nagging suspicion that the pessimists were right and that the productivity gains brought by labour-shedding and the closure of sub-marginal capacity were a once-and-for-all affair and are not being sustained through to the second wind of recovery, expanding output and capacity usage. In other words, Britain has still not achieved that long-term breakthrough in underlying productivity growth that will enable us to trade with the world without some semi-continuous depreciation of the currency.

After the phenomenal rises last year, output per head in manufacturing was still showing year on year growth above 4 per cent in the first and second quarters, but slowed to 2.9 per cent in July. It would be most disappointing if that does not improve.

It may be that the current slowdown in part reflects diminishing returns to the slimmed-down labour force and management resistance to taking on permanent new employees to build on recovery. That would offer hope for jobs as well as productivity if business confidence is maintained.

Otherwise, whatever the month by month ups and downs, the steady erosion that has sent sterling down by an average 12 per cent since 1979 will probably continue and the British economic miracle will remain a tantalising possibility.

Maxwell takes on a man his own size

According to his own assessment there is no achievement beyond the capacity of gallant Captain Robert Maxwell, late of the House of Commons and now enshrined in Mirror Group Newspapers. He is equipped with overweening ambition, enormous energy, and a skin thicker than rhinoceros hide. He is both charming (women find him engaging, if not irresistible) and ruthless (his methods guarantee that first class managers do not work for him for very long). He has the power of personal wealth. Above all he now has an amazing record.

He not only survived the savage indictment of Board of Trade inquiry; he regained Pergamon, the family business; he moved conspicuously into the public company arena when he acquired control of British Printing Corporation. He proceeded to transform BPC with devastating effect and this year removed Mirror Group Newspapers from the limp grasp of Reed International. If you have an outside ego, the most glorious trip of all is outside a national newspaper group. You can see yourself as the arbiter of great national events: settling a coal strike one day; swaying the destiny of governments the next.

I would not blame Mr Maxwell for

believing that he is more than a match for anyone in the land. But whether he knows it or not he has taken on, for the first time, at least an equal and a man who has some of the same traits, Sir Nigel Brookes.

The chairman of Trafalgar House has a certain admiration for Mr Maxwell's steep commercial climb. They have recently had the social contacts the Mirror chairman actively seeks among those with influence. However the glass in which they saw each other side by side was shattered last Friday when when bold Bob crashed into Trafalgar's agreement to buy the RSC offshore oil rig construction yard in Fife from British Steel. This was signed on August 7 and is due to be implemented on October 1.

Mr Maxwell tried to tempt Sir Nigel personally with a bid of £16m, the magic £1m above the £15m Trafalgar agreement to pay, plus other inducements. It takes something like a San Francisco earthquake to shake the Brookes' demeanor: his reply was a combination of earth and fire. Rebuffed but never dismayed, Mr Maxwell, on Monday launched his bid, or the acceptable part of it, through Mirror newspapers. He is not a would-be press baron for nothing.

Bare knuckles flashed. The Daily Express, where Trafalgar's deputy chairman, Lord Matthews enjoys the abundant fruits Mr Maxwell desires, countered with a well-directed knee. The Daily Mirror came back yesterday with a forearm smash.

Interested spectators such as British Steel and the Office of Fair Trading are keeping their own counsel, but if they accept that Mr Maxwell, through the Mirror's Scottish newspaper company, has made a genuine bid, they cannot stay mum for long.

Brookes and Sterling begin their duet

While the lance was being sharpened and the horse fitted with appropriate armour, Sir Nigel yesterday met his previous adversary, Mr Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P&O. The talks about their mutual shipping concerns foreshadowed last week when Trafalgar House formally signified its withdrawal from the P&O stakes by selling its 7 per cent holding in P&O to Sterling Guarantee Trust, have got underway far more quickly than anyone who does not know the two men had expected. Trafalgar's original bid for P&O was partly predicated on its assessment of a £30m profit benefit from the nationalisation of P&O's and Cunard's merchant and passenger ship interests. The arithmetic may have altered and it would, in any event, be different for the two companies now steering their own independent courses.

Yesterday's overt moves by P&O, after a night at the opera (Tosca) for both Mr Sterling and Sir Nigel, was an increase from 14.9 per cent to 19.9 per cent in Sterling Guarantee's P&O shareholding.

The P and O price slipped 4p to 289p, and is now beginning to lose touch with the 307p at which Trafalgar House bowed out last week.

Short-term bulls of P and O, rightly, are facing up to the fact that it may be some time before the situation is resolved. It was entirely logical that Sterling Guarantee, where Mr Sterling is also chairman, should move up towards 20 per cent, so that the holding can be consolidated in its accounts. A full merger of the two groups, confidently expected by the outside world, must await the delicate process of blending their respective managements.

Yesterday's development was significant in another respect: the identity of the seller and the manner of the transfer. The stock was acquired from clients of Warburg Investment Management, part of the S G Warburg merchant banking group, in return for Sterling Guarantee ordinary shares amounting to an extra 11.9 per cent of the previous total equity. In a formal sense, this strengthens its balance sheet by adding new permanent capital. Less tangibly but more importantly, it is yet another vote of confidence from the City in Mr Sterling's talents. It is interesting that Warburg should opt for a bid for SET shares, with preference for P&O.

BAT tops City forecasts with profits of £505m

By William Kay, City Editor

The market value of BAT Industries was marked up by £220m yesterday when the tobacco, retailing and insurance group unveiled half-year pretax profits of £505m, an improvement of £15m on the first half of last year and well ahead of City analysts' expectations.

Turnover of the vast company rose by more than £500m to £5,955m. The interim dividend, goes up from 3.375p to 4.05p.

The pattern of trading showed a 46 per cent jump in tobacco profits, another healthy gain from paper making, but declines from retailing, the Eagle Star Insurance subsidiary and cosmetics.

The verdict of the chairman, Mr Patrick Sheehy, was that "provided there are no major adverse exchange rate movements between now and the year-end, I foresee a strong increase for the year in pretax profit, to the benefit of shareholders' dividends."

It may be significant that BAT has taken the step for the first time of sending the interim results bulletin to all its shareholders. This, coupled with the burst of corporate advertising on television and elsewhere, indicates a determined effort to make the BAT name better known among the public.

Mr Sheehy yesterday re-

peated his ambition to use Eagle Star as the base for a wide-ranging financial services operation, in which case recognition of the BAT name may be a useful asset.

Meanwhile the core tobacco business, which takes in such overseas brands as Capstan, Henri Winterman and Barclay, continues to generate the cash which will be needed to diversify.

A 6 per cent sales increase to £2,992m translated into a jump in profits from £226m to £331m. Despite withdrawal from the declining British market, volume showed a small increase.

Retailing, particularly in the

US, showed higher sales but lower profits. Stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Gimble's and Thimbles, were affected by a squeeze on margins because of tougher competition.

In Britain, Argos turnover rose 24 per cent, producing profits "substantially ahead".

Paper reaped excellent results from a buoyant North American market. Higher exports and cost savings by Wiggins Teape in Britain sent its profits up by 60 per cent. Carbonless paper sales grew strongly.

Eagle Star was hit by the grim conditions which have blighted the rest of the insurance companies. Premiums rose by 14 per cent to £325m.

Shares jump 13.8 points

Determined buying by British institutions and overseas investors sent equities climbing to their best level for almost four months yesterday. The FT 30-share index closed at 871.8 points, up 13.8 points. The end of the dock strike and the possibility of more talks over the pit dispute helped sentiment. Cuts closed with gains of 2 1/2% spurred by Sterling's slight improvement.

Stock market report, Page 21

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1125.2 up 16.3 (high: 1125.2; low: 1109.8)
FT Index: 871.8 up 13.8
FT All Share: 825.51 up 5.39
Bavaria: 118.16
Daxindex USM Leader: 103.17 up 0.45
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1224.82 down 1.44
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,552.30 down 6.85
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 983.79 up 8.87
Amsterdam: 175.2 up 1.1

CURRENTS

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 10%
Finance houses base rate 11%
Discount market loans week fixed 10% - 10%
3 month interbank 11 - 10%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11 1/2% - 11%
3 month DM 5 1/2% - 5%
3 month Fr 11 1/2% - 11%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13.00
Fed funds 11%
Treasury long bond 103 1/2 - 103 1/2
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme (V Average reference rate for interest period August 8 to September 4 1984, inclusive: 10.85 per cent.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 10%
Finance houses base rate 11%
Discount market loans week fixed 10% - 10%
3 month interbank 11 - 10%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11 1/2% - 11%
3 month DM 5 1/2% - 5%
3 month Fr 11 1/2% - 11%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13.00
Fed funds 11%
Treasury long bond 103 1/2 - 103 1/2
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme (V Average reference rate for interest period August 8 to September 4 1984, inclusive: 10.85 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$339.90 pm \$340.00
close \$340.00 - \$340.50 (\$274.50 - 275.00)
New York (latest): \$340.40
Krugger (per coin): \$350.00 - \$351.50 (\$282.50 - 283.50)
Sovereigns (new): \$79.50 - \$80.50 (\$64.25 - 65.00)
Excludes VAT

BET pays £26m for Anglian

By Ian Griffiths

British Electric Traction is to pay £26.8m for an 80 per cent stake in Anglian Windows, the country's second largest double glazing company.

Mr George Williams, who founded Anglian in 1966, will collect £24.8m in cash, shares and loan stock for the 74 per cent holding he and his family have in the company.

The deal also provides a £2m windfall for Silvermines, an Irish investment company, which will sell 6 per cent of its stake in Anglia to BET with an option to sell the remaining 20 per cent it holds by the end of 1985.

Silvermines paid £495,000 in 1977 for its 26 per cent holding, which is now worth £8.7m.

BET is already strong in windows for new homes, through its Boulton & Paul subsidiary, but has only a small presence in replacement windows with its Skel Home Improvements. The purchase will give BET a 15 per cent share of the replacement window market.

In the year to April 28, Anglian had a turnover of £81.5m and pretax profits of £7.1m. It has grown 26 per cent over the last 10 years, which is three times the rate of the replacement window market, which totalled £625m last year.

Mr Williams will continue as chairman and chief executive and has signed a two-year contract with BET.



St George's Hospital: a £4m difference of opinion

Wrangle over value halts hospital site project

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

A dispute over the value of one of London's most prominent sites, St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, has led to the collapse of plans for its restoration and the development of more than 200,000 sq ft of offices.

Grosvenor Estates part-owner of the site, is accusing the other part-owner, the Department of Health and Social Security, of "arrogance and intransigence" over the terms of the sale. It had offered the DHSS £6.1m for its share, a figure accepted by the district valuer, but that was rejected by the department whose advisers, Richard Ellis, were insisting on £10m.

Unit trust funds back fee rise

By Richard Thomson

The Unit Trust Association yesterday altered its rules to allow members to charge a first year fee of 20 per cent to investors in unit trust savings schemes. Previously the maximum charge was 3 per cent.

A special meeting of the UTA, which represents 97 per cent of all unit trust funds under management, voted by two-to-one in favour of the new commission rate. The new rate means that an investor in one of these plans could find, for example, that on a £20-a-month payment the first £48 goes in fees.

The increase comes after the abolition of life assurance premium relief in the last Budget. Because of the 15 per cent tax relief, insurance companies had a strong competitive advantage. Now that the advantage no longer exists unit trust companies want to market their schemes more aggressively by paying more to the intermediaries who sell them.

The 20 per cent commission, however, is only a maximum and many companies may choose not to charge that much or to charge no commission at all, as some do at present. Though many companies did not approve of the new commission rate, some of them voted in favour of it so as not to disrupt the UTA's commission agreements.

The companies objecting to the new rate argue that a high commission makes savings schemes less flexible.

Threat of strike could foil Chubb defence

By Jeremy Warner

A threatened strike at Chubb & Son's Wolverhampton lock and safe factory could undermine the profits forecast being prepared for the company's defence against an unwanted £146m takeover bid from Rael Electronics.

About 800 members of the National Union of Lock and Metal Workers have threatened to strike from today at the group's manufacturing plant at Wolverhampton if a pay claim is not met. A prolonged strike would have a big impact on profits.

Chubb directors will consider the next stage of their defence against Rael including a forecast of results for the year to the end of next March, at a full board meeting today. Under City takeover rules, Chubb has to release all the details of its defence by the end of this month.

Chubb is expected to share-holders' attention to Rael's involvement in litigation in the United States and Britain. Codex Corporation has obtained a judgment against Rael - Milgo in the United States for infringement of patent. Codex has also started proceedings in England for alleged infringement of the same patent. Rael directors have said they find it impossible to quantify the possible liabilities.

A.B.A.T. Industries Report

Extracts from the interim results for the six months to 30th June 1984

"I foresee a strong increase in pre-tax profit."

PATRICK SHEEHY, Chairman



I am very pleased to report a strong performance by the Group in the first half of 1984, continuing the pronounced improvement that began in the second half of last year.

At £5,955 million, Group turnover in the six months to June was 10 per cent higher than in the comparable period of 1983. Pre-tax profit was 45 per cent higher at £505 million, and attributable profit increased by 44 per cent to £274 million.

In the light of this record of sound underlying growth assisted to some extent by exchange rate movements, the Board has declared an interim dividend of 4.05 pence per share, an increase of 20 per cent on last year's figure.

The substantial improvement in tobacco profit reflects a sharp recovery from the problems that affected our business in the first half of 1983, and the total number of cigarettes sold by the Group and its Associates showed a small increase. Brown & Williamson's trading profit rose by 62 per cent in dollar terms as a result of price increases and improved productivity, while its market share showed signs of stabilising. After eighteen months of disruption the West German market continued its encouraging return to more profitable trading, and our company increased its market share. Brazil was affected by difficult economic conditions, but Souza Cruz maintained its market share and, as a result of buoyant leaf exports, improved its profits. Venezuela and the Far East made important contributions to the overall improvement.

Retailing in the USA showed an encouraging increase in turnover but it is disappointing that this did not flow through into profits. There was some overstocking throughout the industry and margins were generally reduced to clear excessive inventories. UK retailing showed further progress in both Argos and International Stores. Our West German activities have been expanded by the acquisition in August of a controlling interest in the Horten chain of department stores.

Paper again showed excellent results. There was another sparkling performance from Appleton. This will be reinforced by the more recent acquisition of a large paper mill in Ohio. Wiggins Teape made a further strong advance in the UK although its margins here and in continental Europe came under pressure.

These are the first results to be reported since we acquired Eagle Star to establish financial services as our fourth major business area. Both life and general business premiums increased substantially, as did investment income. But in common with many other companies we had to face increases in claims, and the overall profit from insurance operations was down. Grovewood Securities turned in sharply higher profits and the Eagle Star Holdings PLC group pre-tax profit for the period amounted to £29 million.

GROUP RESULTS

	Half year to 30.6.84 £ millions	Half year to 30.6.83 £ millions
Turnover:		
Commercial activities	5,955	5,410
Financial services	519	—
Profit before taxation	505	348
Attributable to B.A.T. Industries	274	190
Interim dividend	4.05p	3.375p

Mardon Packaging achieved a large profit increase. Home improvements and cosmetics faced specific problems and did less well. There was once again a splendid performance by our associated companies, notably Imasco.

PROSPECTS

I told the Annual General Meeting in May that I expected our four main businesses to contribute to another record year for the Group. These first-half results support my confidence. The tobacco business should produce results well ahead of last year's, although without the marked second-half improvement that was seen in 1983.

The highly seasonal nature of retailing makes firm predictions unwise in advance of the important final quarter. However, I expect strong US consumer spending to continue and to be reflected in our second-half performance.

Paper will also be an important contributor to the increase in total trading profit as further good progress is made in the USA and UK.

Earnings of Eagle Star Holdings should be substantially higher than in the first half of 1984.

I must point out that the large disparity in Group performance between the first and second halves of 1983 will not be repeated this year, when I expect the difference between the two periods to be less pronounced.

Provided there are no major adverse exchange rate movements between now and the year-end, I foresee a strong increase for the year in pre-tax profit to the benefit of shareholders' dividends.

B.A.T. INDUSTRIES

The full report has been posted to shareholders. Copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T. Industries PLC, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Link likely for broker

Siligo & Coes is the latest stockbroker expected to announce a merger soon. Its prospective partner is said to be Bankers Trust, the eighth largest American bank.

Neither would confirm yesterday that they are talking, but Bankers Trust said it was following the securities industry deregulation with interest and was talking to people outside banking.

● RIO TINTO-ZINC, the mining finance and industrial group, shrugged off low metal prices to raise interim attributable profits from £24.2m to £100m. A slightly slower 13 per cent increase in earnings per share to 32.3p was caused by a dilution from last year's rights issue. The interim dividend was 6.5p against 6p net.

Tempus, page 21
● COATS PATONS, the Glasgow-based textile multinational, has announced pretax profits up 27 per cent for the half-year to June 30 to £43.2m from £34m last year. Earnings per share rose from 6.5p to 8.9p, from the "flash" estimate of 0.15p to 1.65p. Tempus, page 21

Regan offers rates 'hope'

From Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor, Washington

As the dollar opened firmer again in New York yesterday, the US Treasury Secretary, Mr Donald Regan, said that it might remain strong even if interest rates decline.

Speaking in advance of the annual gathering of world finance ministers under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Mr Regan said he could offer them the hope of lower interest rates but that the high dollar was primarily due to the strength of the US economy, compared with the problem-ridden Europeans, with their slow growth and labour problems.

Asked how he would reply to European finance ministers' complaints about the US federal deficit at the IMF meetings, Mr Regan insisted that on a comparable basis, the US deficit was no larger than many of the Europeans'. He admitted to being dismayed at the level of American interest rates, but believed they would come down as the economy cooled.

The markets will be taking the temperature of the economy from the IMF's longest-running GDP in the third quarter, due

to be published tomorrow. Mr Regan said he was expecting a figure of about 4.5 per cent growth, dropping to 4 per cent in the fourth quarter - which would mean a 50 per cent slowdown in the growth rate between the two halves of the year.

However, at the Commonwealth finance ministers' meeting in Toronto, the Secretary General, Mr Shridath Ramphal, said that interest rates were set to remain high because of American policies, and continued to pose a threat to world economic recovery.

Although conflict between Mr Regan and other ministers may be muted by the imminence of the US election, there is bound to be a dispute in Washington over the issues of IMF resources and policies.

Mr Regan said finance ministers "must" reach agreement this coming week on cutting back access to IMF loans. He believed that the IMF had done a "classic job" over the past two years, but that while the debt crisis was certainly not over, it had become less critical. The IMF's longest-running negotiating battle, with Argen-

tina, is now claimed by the Argentine Government to be on the verge of a conclusion. Mr Regan remained unconvinced, but said that he would be meeting the Argentine economy minister, Señor Bernardo Grinspun, for talks tomorrow.

Señor Grinspun is in Washington for talks with the IMF. Mr Regan said he regarded an IMF programme for Argentina as essential.

● TORONTO: Mr Ramphal yesterday paid a glowing tribute to the report on Third-World debt prepared by a Commonwealth group under Lord Lever, calling it forthright and innovative. John Best writes.

However, Canada's new finance minister, Mr Michael Wilson, differed sharply, saying that he did not share the report's "pessimism".

Mr Ramphal told the Commonwealth finance ministers the Lever report "recognizes the value of a pragmatic, case-by-case approach, but stresses the need for global solutions too, looking beyond the interests of the major banks and the major debtors".

Peel offers £18m for Bridgewater Estates

Peel Holdings, the Rochdale superstore and industrial development company has made an £18.2m bid for Bridgewater Estates, the Manchester agricultural and residential development company.

Mr Peter Scott, Peel Holdings' finance director, says the reason for the bid is the company's desire to dilute its gearing currently standing at 80 per cent, through the acquisition of income earning assets which will allow Peel to continue its superstore development programme.

Superstores make up 60 per cent of Peel's gross assets. Peel hopes to develop further stores on some of the 9,000 acres of agricultural and residential land owned by Bridgewater.

The terms of the bid have been agreed by both boards and

Peel's parent company, Largs, which owns a 23.5 per cent stake in Bridgewater. The bid terms are 11 Peel ordinary shares and £2.50 nominal of the new 10 per cent cumulative preference shares for every 10 ordinary Bridgewater shares.

● Taylor Woodrow Property Company is opening an office in Tampa, Florida, USA, this month as work starts on phase two of its office part at Lakeside, Tampa. The new development will have two buildings totalling 90,000 sq ft and is expected to be completed by next February.

Taylor Woodrow is looking for rents of \$14 a sq ft (£11.30) which, it says, is a highly competitive figure for that market. The development is being undertaken in partnership with the USA Insurance Company of San Antonio, Texas.

£40m plan to expand city precinct

Watergrade International Holdings and National Freight Consortium Properties, with the builder, William Cowlin, are planning a £40m, 260,000 sq ft extension to Bristol's main shopping area, the Broadmead Centre.

The 11-acre site covers Bond Street, Newfoundland Street, Dale Street and Wellington Road. Bristol planners have yet to decide on the application for the development, which will link with the existing Littlewoods and C&A stores in the Broadmead Centre.

In addition to the shopping space which will incorporate a large store, there will be parking for 690 cars. Bristol City Council wants the site developed to consolidate Broadmead. The developers hope for a decision this month.

Platforms for a hard sell

By Judith Huntley

British Rail, which owns an area twice the size of the Isle of Wight, is facing an inquiry over land sales

The British Rail Property Board is facing a searching inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission over the way in which it handles the sale of the railways' vast property assets.

The Commission will also be asked to investigate whether BR is "acting against the public interest" in its property dealings.

The board says "it has done all it could to cut costs" arguing that even with a staff of 950, half of whom are qualified chartered surveyors, it still contributes a great deal of money to the running of the railway. It says that it will be interested to see what the commissioners have to say and "if we can improve our work we will take their suggestions on board".

The board is one of Britain's largest landowners owning an area twice the size of the Isle of Wight. Last year saw the board pouring a record £103m into the coffers of the ailing railway system and this year could see a peak of £120m.

The board has realized more than £360m from property asset sales and development during the past five years but the seedcorn is running out. The property board has often been criticized by the private sector for not acting in as commercial a fashion as developers and investors have to do. However, when your property assets consist of miles of redundant railway track not to mention gloomy railway arches, it is not always easy to dispose of them rapidly or for top level prices.

A complicating factor for the board is the fact that decisions have to be taken over whether land and buildings are operational. This often depends on Government decisions which may change or be a long time in coming.

The Monopolies Commission will be looking at ways in which the board may improve its efficiency and cut its costs. That may be a valid

investigation but for the Government to raise the question of whether it is acting against the public interest in its property dealings appears to be a case of doublethink.

The property board was set up in 1969 specifically to advise on commercial property development and investment. Since then it has embarked, mostly in conjunction with private developers and financial institutions on a big programme of sales and development which have provided BR, even after the costs involved in the undertaking with an extremely valuable source of revenue.

It is arguable that if the board were not under such pressure to contribute to the running costs of the railway, it might not have to sell its property so quickly thereby benefiting from a mature asset which could, in the long term, produce a higher income or be sold for a higher price.

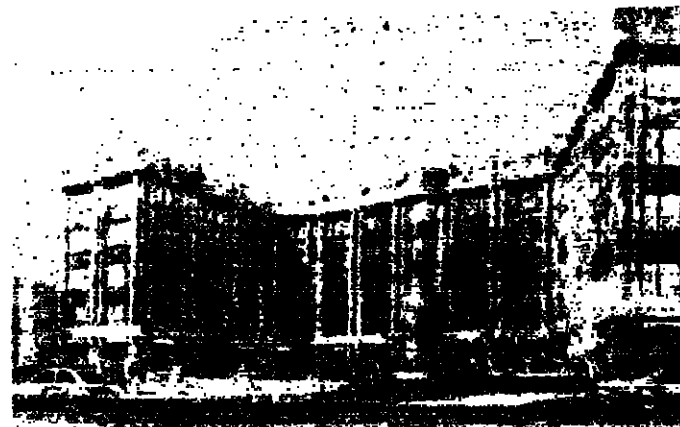
The board has a few large schemes in hand, which when completed and let, will pay for new railway stations. The most spectacular to date is the redevelopment of Victoria Station in London by Greycoat City Offices. This 234,000 sq ft office building has provoked a great deal of interest and the developers say it looks likely that lettings will soon be announced to a maximum of five tenants paying about £22 a sq ft.

A second phase of 350,000 sq ft is planned and the final details are being discussed with BR which will get a rail/rail terminal from the project besides improving passenger facilities.

In the City, the board's plans for redeveloping Fenchurch Street in conjunction with Harcourt Union will mean it gets a new station. The property development associated with building over the air rights at stations is the only way that BR can upgrade or build a new station and the board's job is to achieve that end.

Liverpool Street is another significant example of a joint development with the private sector whereby BR hopes that 1 million sq ft of offices at the station will pay for its badly needed improvement.

New stations will also result from private sector joint developments at Watford Junction with Hunting Gate and Oxford



Friary Court possible new address for Spicer Pegler

Spicer Pegler, the accountants, is considering taking Commercial Union Properties' 72,185 sq ft new office development called Friary Court in the City. Spicer Pegler confirms that it is looking at the building as the company is bursting at the seams and badly in need of more space. The move however, will depend on the company signing the lease of its existing offices at St Mary Axe, also in the City.

William Woodward Fisher of Chester, the agents acting for Spicer Pegler, says the 1960s 45,000 sq ft development by the Prudential is in need of refurbishment and talks are underway with the landlord and the freeholder, the Corporation of the City of London, over its future.

Jones Lang Wootton acting for CLP, will not quote a rent for Friary Court but it is believed it could be £21 a sq ft. Recent lettings have been done on the

basis of rent-free periods or other financial incentives which make real rent below those quoted, at about £25 a sq ft. CLP's Friary Court is a very high specification building.

The CUP deal is only one of several in the pipeline in EC3 which Jones Lang Wootton says has seen a dramatic turnaround in its office market.

A string of lettings look likely to come through before too long. Haslemere Estates' Barry Court House has 30,000 sq ft under offer. Camperdown House is also under offer as is Goodman's Court, and Capital & Counties' Somerset House is finally let.

Stewart Wrighton Holdings has been granted a new 125-year lease on the 100,000 sq ft Fountain House, Fenchurch Street, EC3 from the freeholders for a ground rent equal to 14.1 per cent of the rack rent payable from sub-lettings, which have been at the £30 a sq ft mark.

Station with Beacontree Estates, once the planners are satisfied.

It is not only station redevelopments that take up the board's time. There was 3.25 million sq ft of space of all kinds under construction last year involving private sector funds of about £160m. These projects ranged from do-it-yourself stores, offices, warehouses, supermarkets, retail schemes and industrial developments.

One of the largest retail schemes due to start this year is the 266,000 sq ft shopping centre and station improvement at Preston, Lancashire, and a total of 1.2 million sq ft of space is under way now outstripping even the largest private developer.

The board can hardly be said to have been sluggish over its developments, despite being

hampered by the problem of deciding whether it would have to pay Development Land Tax. That alone, particularly where station developments are involved, has resulted in lengthy delays while the Inland Revenue and the board came to agreement over the Land Tax problem.

The board chairman, Sir Robert Lawrence, said in May: "We have forged ahead with our very vigorous programme of disposal of properties, both to meet the cash needs of BR and to fulfil our remit from British Rail Investments to sell property assets as part of the Government's privatization initiatives."

It will be interesting to see whether the Monopolies Commission agrees with him.

Control Securities, the property investment and gold mining company, is on the lookout for a private property company which it can take over. As it is likely to be a takeover within the next few weeks and if the offer of Mr Bernard Gould, the managing director, is anything to go by, the most likely candidate could be a company with a portfolio biased towards retail property in Britain's market towns. So far no name has emerged as the frontrunner for a takeover or reverse takeover bid so the market will have to wait and see.

Control is also about to tie up a deal to undertake small scale office refurbishments on the edge of London but is keeping tight-lipped about the details.

● The Aberdeen property market is looking brighter than for some time with both office and industrial lettings on the increase, report the chartered surveyors, Drivers Jonas.

Industrial rents have risen by 7 per cent in the 2,000 sq ft to 7,000 sq ft range, and office lettings at 118,000 sq ft are the highest for a half year since Drivers Jonas began its survey in 1976.

Available industrial space in the "granite city" has fallen to 320,000 sq ft, one of the lowest levels since 1979.

Industrial rents are quoted at £2.50 a sq ft, with nursery units reaching £4 a sq ft.

Demand for purpose-built space is high, with Marks and Spencer taking 4,000 sq ft.

Aberdeen's office market has been suffering from an oversupply of space and Drivers Jonas say there are no more speculative schemes.

Rents for new space outside Aberdeen's West End area are £6 to £7 a sq ft, with refurbished space going for £8.50 a sq ft.

● BTR, the international industrial, manufacturing and services group, has sold the former headquarters of Thomas Tilling Group in Curzon Street, Mayfair, for £37m, a figure considerably below the £50m reported to be the price the company had hoped for.

BTR said it would not accept less than £30m for the 65,000 sq ft of offices on the one acre site at Curzon House, at one time a favourite meeting ground for high society Liberals.

Saudi Arabia has bought the premises for a new embassy, BTR says the building, part of which was erected in 1977 with later additions in the 1980s, needs refurbishing. It was sold freehold by private treaty after approaches from the Saudis.

BTR acquired the property when it took over Tilling last year and it has remained empty ever since.

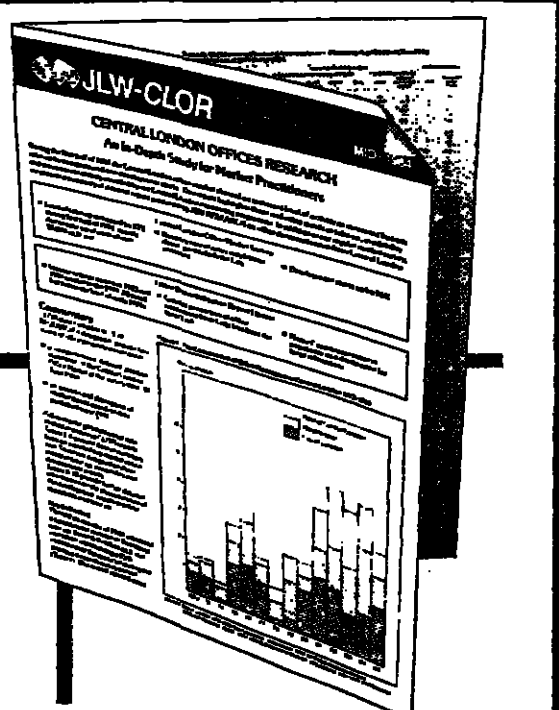
CLOR IV

Now with new decentralisation study

Published half yearly CLOR (Central London Office Research) shows continued upturn in the rate of letting and development starts for Central London Office property.

If you are considering investing in property you should ask for a copy of CLOR IV.

Copies freely available on request from the JLW Research Library, Mount St.



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1983/84	1982/83	1981/82	1980/81	1979/80	1978/79	1977/78	1976/77	1975/76	1974/75	1973/74	1972/73	1971/72	1970/71	1969/70	1968/69	1967/68	1966/67	1965/66	1964/65	1963/64	1962/63	1961/62	1960/61	1959/60	1958/59	1957/58	1956/57	1955/56	1954/55	1953/54	1952/53	1951/52	1950/51	1949/50	1948/49	1947/48	1946/47	1945/46	1944/45	1943/44	1942/43	1941/42	1940/41	1939/40	1938/39	1937/38	1936/37	1935/36	1934/35	1933/34	1932/33	1931/32	1930/31	1929/30	1928/29	1927/28	1926/27	1925/26	1924/25	1923/24	1922/23	1921/22	1920/21	1919/20	1918/19	1917/18	1916/17	1915/16	1914/15	1913/14	1912/13	1911/12	1910/11	1909/10	1908/09	1907/08	1906/07	1905/06	1904/05	1903/04	1902/03	1901/02	1900/01	1899/00	1898/99	1897/98	1896/97	1895/96	1894/95	1893/94	1892/93	1891/92	1890/91	1889/90	1888/89	1887/88	1886/87	1885/86	1884/85	1883/84	1882/83	1881/82	1880/81	1879/80	1878/79	1877/78	1876/77	1875/76	1874/75	1873/74	1872/73	1871/72	1870/71	1869/70	1868/69	1867/68	1866/67	1865/66	1864/65	1863/64	1862/63	1861/62	1860/61	1859/60	1858/59	1857/58	1856/57	1855/56	1854/55	1853/54	1852/53	1851/52	1850/51	1849/50	1848/49	1847/48	1846/47	1845/46	1844/45	1843/44	1842/43	1841/42	1840/41	1839/40	1838/39	1837/38	1836/37	1835/36	1834/35	1833/34	1832/33	1831/32	1830/31	1829/30	1828/29	1827/28	1826/27	1825/26	1824/25	1823/24	1822/23	1821/22	1820/21	1819/20	1818/19	1817/18	1816/17	1815/16	1814/15	1813/14	1812/13	1811/12	1810/11	1809/10	1808/09	1807/08	1806/07	1805/06	1804/05	1803/04	1802/03	1801/02	1800/01	1799/00	1798/99	1797/98	1796/97	1795/96	1794/95	1793/94	1792/93	1791/92	1790/91	1789/90	1788/89	1787/88	1786/87	1785/86	1784/85	1783/84	1782/83	1781/82	1780/81	1779/80	1778/79	1777/78	1776/77	1775/76	1774/75	1773/74	1772/73	1771/72	1770/71	1769/70	1768/69	1767/68	1766/67	1765/66	1764/65	1763/64	1762/63	1761/62	1760/61	1759/60	1758/59	1757/58	1756/57	1755/56	1754/55	1753/54	1752/53	1751/52	1750/51	1749/50	1748/49	1747/48	1746/47	1745/46	1744/45	1743/44	1742/43	1741/42	1740/41	1739/40	1738/39	1737/38	1736/37	1735/36	1734/35	1733/34	1732/33	1731/32	1730/31	1729/30	1728/29	1727/28	1726/27	1725/26	1724/25	1723/24	1722/23	1721/22	1720/21	1719/20	1718/19	1717/18	1716/17	1715/16	1714/15	1713/14	1712/13	1711/12	1710/11	1709/10	1708/09	1707/08	1706/07	1705/06	1704/05	1703/04	1702/03	1701/02	1700/01	1699/00	1698/99	1697/98	1696/97	1695/96	1694/95	1693/94	1692/93	1691/92	1690/91	1689/90	1688/89	1687/88	1686/87	1685/86	1684/85	1683/84	1682/83	1681/82	1680/81	1679/80	1678/79	1677/78	1676/77	1675/76	1674/75	1673/74	1672/73	1671/72	1670/71	1669/70	1668/69	1667/68	1666/67	1665/66	1664/65	1663/64	1662/63	1661/62	1660/61	1659/60	1658/59	1657/58	1656/57	1655/56	1654/55	1653/54	1652/53	1651/52	1650/51	1649/50	1648/49	1647/48	1646/47	1645/46	1644/45	1643/44	1642/43	1641/42	1640/41	1639/40	1638/39	1637/38	1636/37	1635/36	1634/35	1633/34	1632/33	1631/32	1630/31	1629/30	1628/29	1627/28	1626/27	1625/26	1624/25	1623/24	1622/23	1621/22	1620/21	1619/20	1618/19	1617/18	1616/17	1615/16	1614/15	1613/14	1612/13	1611/12	1610/11	1609/10	1608/09	1607/08	1606/07	1605/06	1604/05	1603/04	1602/03	1601/02	1600/01	1599/00	1598/99	1597/98	1596/97	1595/96	1594/95	1593/94	1592/93	1591/92	1590/91	1589/90	1588/89	1587/88	1586/87	1585/86	1584/85	1583/84	1582/83	1581/82	1580/81	1579/80	1578/79	1577/78	1576/77	1575/76	1574/75	1573/74	1572/73	1571/72	1570/71	1569/70	1568/69	1567/68	1566/67	1565/66	1564/65	1563/64	1562/63	1561/62	1560/61	1559/60	1558/59	1557/58	1556/57	1555/56	1554/55	1553/54	1552/53	1551/52	1550/51	1549/50	1548/49	1547/48	1546/47	1545/46	1544/45	1543/44	1542/43	1541/42	1540/41	1539/40	1538/39	1537/38	1536/37	1535/36	1534/35	1533/34	1532/33	1531/32	1530/31	1529/30	1528/29	1527/28	1526/27	1525/26	1524/25	1523/24	1522/23	1521/22	1520/21	1519/20	1518/19	1517/18	1516/17	1515/16	1514/15	1513/14	1512/13	1511/12	1510/11	1509/10	1508/09	1507/08	1506/07	1505/06	1504/05	1503/04	1502/03	1501/02	1500/01	1499/00	1498/99	1497/98	1496/97	1495/96	1494/95	1493/94	1492/93	1491/92	1490/91	1489/90	1488/89	1487/88	1486/87	1485/86	1484/85	1483/84	1482/83	1481/82	1480/81	1479/80	1478/79	1477/78	1476/77	1475/76	1474/75	1473/74	1472/73	1471/72	1470/71	1469/70	1468/69	1467/68	1466/67	1465/66	1464/65	1463/64	1462/63	1461/62	1460/61	1459/60	1458/59	1457/58	1456/57	1455/56	1454/55	1453/54	1452/53	1451/52	1450/51	1449/50	1448/49	1447/48	1446/47	1445/46	1444/45	1443/44	1442/43	1441/42	1440/41	1439/40	1438/39	1437/38	1436/37	1435/36	1434/35	1433/34	1432/33	1431/32	1430/31	1429/30	1428/29	1427/28	1426/27	1425/26	1424/25	1423/24	1422/23	1421/22	1420/21	1419/20	1418/19	1417/18	1416/17	1415/16	1414/15	1413/14	1412/13	1411/12	1410/11	1409/10	1408/09	1407/08	1406/07	1405/06	1404/05	1403/04	1402/03	1401/02	1400/01	1399/00	1398/99	1397/98	1396/97	1395/96	1394/95	1393/94	1392/93	1391/92	1390/91	1389/90	1388/89	1387/88	1386/87	1385/86	1384/85	1383/84	1382/83	1381/82	1380/81	1379/80	1378/79	1377/78	1376/77	1375/76	1374/75	1373/74	1372/73	1371/72	1370/71	1369/70	1368/69	1367/68	1366/67	1365/66	1364/65	1363/64	1362/63	1361/62	1360/61	1359/60	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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares reach four-month high

By Derek Pain

Shares surged to their best level for nearly four months yesterday. Determined buying, much stemming from overseas, caught jitters short of stock and double-figure gains were a common feature throughout the list.

In early trading it looked as though demand was reserved for selected leading companies. But as the day progressed the enthusiasm split over to the second-liners and the market enjoyed one of the days for some time.

The FT 30 share index closed at 871.8 points. The more broadly based FT-SE index achieved a 14.3-point advance to 1,125.2 points.

Shares of Aldon International, the design, market research and computer group, climbed 7p to 88p yesterday still reflecting the outstanding interim figures. But some may be expecting too much for the present 14-month period. About £1.6m looks likely with the bonus of a sharp dividend increase.

Trading had started on a subdued note. But then, much to the astonishment of many, the buying started. Institutional investors moved off the sidelines and there was also buying from the Continent. Share prices were marked up in anticipation of American interest which duly materialized.

The market was encouraged, if belatedly, by the end of the docks dispute; by vague hopes that Acas would bring the National Coal Board and National Union of Mineworkers again for new talks; and by better than expected profits from BAT Industries.

The slight rally by sterling also helped sentiment. Government stocks, although failing to cling on to their best levels, closed with gains up to 3/4.

Among FT 30 index constituents in form were British Petroleum, up 13p to 513p; General Electric Company, 8p higher at 222p; and Thorn EMI, 13p to 422p.

After Tuesday's sharp gain Hanson Trust remained in demand, at one time hitting 246p. Imperial Chemical Industries remained on American

shopping lists reaching 642p, and Plessey, on a favourable brokers' mention, was 6p better at 220p.

The Distillers Company, ahead of today's yearly meeting, was 3p up at 302p, and Lucas Industries, still in the takeover spotlight, touched 228p, up 4p.

Kennedy Brothers, the Mario and Franco, and Wheeler's restaurant chain, could well be on somebody's bid menu. They were once again strong yesterday, climbing 17p to a peak of 275p. They have come up from 174p this year.

The group, which has been determinedly acquisitive during its four-year stock market life, has always made it clear that it wants to hold on to its independence.

But a number of mystery nominee holdings have been built up recently and there are signs that the ambitious Kennedy men suspect a lurking bidder.

One suggestion is that a brewery group may pounce. Whitbread has shown itself to be keen on London establishments, and Courage (part of the Imperial Group) already has trading links with Kennedy.

Meanwhile, Kennedy's last deal, the bid for the London Pavilion, has gone through with shareholders representing 88 per cent of LP's capital accepting. Most opted for the share exchange offer.

Dealings in the shares of Harvard Securities, which runs the fastest growing over-the-counter market, are now expected to start next month on about six e-c markets including of course the Harvard pitch. As part of the flotation Mr M. A. Glickman, chairman, is sharply reducing his 45 per cent shareholding and Mr Tom Wilmet, managing director, will lift his holding to above the 30 per cent level.

Prince of Wales Hotels, where a mystery bidder is having talks with the controlling shareholder, Tagdale Investments, rose 5p to 118p.

Britannia Arrow, the banking to unit trust group, fell 4p to 69p after it announced interim profits £151,000 higher at £5,272,000. The figures include an

extraordinary credit of £4,832,000 (£567,000) and profits on the sale of investments of £4,545,000 against £294,000 the interim dividend is 1.1p compared with 1p.

Bewater Incorporated, the US group spun off from Bewater Industries, has sold its Newfoundland operations, including the troublesome Corner Brook Mill, to a privately owned Canadian company, Keuper. Bewater Inc. is unchanged at \$24 1/2 and Bewater Industries edged ahead 2p to 176p.

In the first 24 weeks of this financial year Argyl Group's Presto stores saw volume rise by 23 per cent, 14 per cent of which was due to new stores, according to Argyl chairman Mr James Gulliver, speaking at yesterday's annual meeting.

The ever-acquisitive Mr Gulliver is now looking to buy small off-licence chains in Britain and a supermarket chain in the US, but the £5 buy will not be until fiscal 1986. Argyl Group has recently announced the £25m agreed bid for Tesco's supermarket chain, Amos Hinton, but the opportunities for more such acquisitions are diminishing, Mr Gulliver said.

The City is looking for taxable profits from Argyl of around £50m this year against £40.1m in 1983/4. Argyl shares rose 1p to 189p.

Biochemical International held at 35p. The company, which makes equipment for the treatment of industrial waste, has high hopes of an order it has won for a pilot plant at the Rouen, France, operation of an American group. In the meantime, the interim loss is £155,000. The business came to the USM in July last year.

Bank shares were firm, with Midland rising 15p to 337p on persistent rumours that it had sold the head office of its Crocker International offshoot for \$37.5m. But Midland said that although negotiations were going on a deal had still to be clinched.

Meyer International, the timber group, rose 6p to 117p after cheerful comments at an architects' lunch, but Barrat Developments continued to reflect unease with its figures, falling 6p to 82p.

Bid hopes again influenced Birmid Quilicat, the lawn-mower group. Its shares spurred a further 4p to 95p. Another to respond, to bid talk was Henry Wigfall, the television retailer, which rose 5p to 140p.

Elsewhere Rio-Tinto-Zinc was dull, down 10p at 577p, on its figures but ahead of results today. Laporte was up 8p at 343p. The stock strike settlement put Rio-Tinto up 20p to Associated British Ports.

Tuesday's 70 per cent profits advance added a further 18p at

Riley Leisure, the snooker group, fell 1p to 56p yesterday. There are worries about next month's interim results which could be hit by the Leisure Industries billiard table manufacturing operation. The group could even be forced to cut the year's dividend. However, there are signs of a share stake being built up. The Bass brewing group could be interested in bidding.

251p to Fisons and Metal Box, depressed this week by some selling, gained 10p to 334p.

Equity turnover on Tuesday was valued at £253.11m from 16,599 bargains. Gilt transaction totalled 3,117. Number of UK and Irish stocks traded was 137 million.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Yield
Applied Electronics 5p (100)	120.10	12.0%
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COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Rubber, coffee, cocoa, in £ per tonne

Sugar and oil in £ per metric tonne

Cotton in £ per 50 lb bale

Wool in £ per 50 lb bale

Hides in £ per 100 lb

Grains in £ per 100 lb

Metals in £ per 100 lb

Fertilizers in £ per 100 lb

Textiles in £ per 100 lb

Leather in £ per 100 lb

Paper in £ per 100 lb

Glass in £ per 100 lb

Rubber in £ per 100 lb

Coffee in £ per 100 lb

Cocoa in £ per 100 lb

Sugar in £ per 100 lb

Cotton in £ per 100 lb

Wool in £ per 100 lb

Hides in £ per 100 lb

Grains in £ per 100 lb

Metals in £ per 100 lb

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Cotton in £ per 100 lb

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Year gain or loss
1	BUILDINGS AND ROADS	
2	Travis & Arnold	
3	Marshall's (Hull)	
4	Ward	
5	Vincent (George)	
6	Yieldem (John)	
7	Wells (Ed)	
8	Fish	
9	Ribblesdale	
10	W. J. G. (Glen)	
11	Barclay's Bank	
12	INDUSTRIALS-SZ	
13	Stirling Ltd	
14	Sepe	
15	Simon Roe	
16	Scam	
17	Standard Fireworks	
18	Sidlaw	
19	Wolverhampton Lanes	
20	Smith Whitworth	
21	Wolsey-Hughes	
22	Savile	
23	DISC-RANGE	
24	Barclay's Bank	
25	Harbottle Ltd	
26	Gen Accident	
27	Royal	
28	Health CE	
29	Sedgwick Grp	
30	Higgs Robinson	
31	Prudential	
32	London & Man	
33	Electricals	
34	Albright Corp	
35	Int Signal & Control	
36	ELCC	
37	Logan	
38	Rand Elect	
39	Plessey	
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Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEK TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHORTS

1984 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

MEDICIS

1984 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

LONGS

1984 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

BREWERS

1984 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

ELECTRICALS

1984 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities forge ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept 17. Dealings End, Sept 28. £ Contingency Day, Oct 1. Settlement Day, Oct 8. £ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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FINANCE AND LAND

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CINEMAS AND TV

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HOTELS AND CATERERS

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INDUSTRIALS E-K

1984 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

INDUSTRIALS L-R

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INDUSTRIALS S-Z

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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1984 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

CINEMAS AND TV

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ATHLETICS

Mr Wu gets four records as a birthday present

From Pat Butcher, Nanking

Wu Zhen has a list of credentials as long as the Great Wall, one of which is vice chairman of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (Jiansu branch). In that capacity he succeeded admirably two nights ago in organizing a banquet for the athletes, officials and press.

As chairman of the All-China Sports Federation (Jiansu branch) Mr Wu, who is known for those of you who remember George Formby, had already been given the present he could imagine - four more Chinese athletes, adding to the one on the first of the meeting here - had set national records.

Since raising national standards, as well as firmly establishing China on the international athletics calendar, has been the object of the meeting here in Nanking, and the one in Shanghai on Saturday, both Mr Wu and Lou Dapeng, the British-born International (IAAF) member for the People's Republic, who has done most of the organizing, can already feel satisfied with their efforts.

Improving national standards by importing international opposition is something that Andy Norman, the British team manager here, understands well. For that is exactly what he set out to do in British athletics 10 years ago.

Apportioning damnation or congratulation for what is a series of individual performances rather than a team effort is difficult in athletics, but something good has happened to the sport in Britain during the last decade, and Norman's contribution should not be underestimated. He is here giving advice, as well as extended his already considerable sphere of influence in the sport.

Expertise is what the Chinese desperately need, as Dapeng admits, and he is ready to listen. Norman, of course, also has the advantage of

SQUASH RACKETS



Old rivals for world supremacy: Hunt (left) and Barrington

Champions who share 14 titles will meet again

By Rex Bellamy

Jonah Barrington, six times British open champion, and Geoff Hunt, who surpassed him by winning the title eight times (a record), are to clash again in a series of seven matches. From October 23 to November 2 they will play at Mansfield, Battersea, Basildon, Sheffield, Dartford, Broadstairs and Durham. Further matches may be arranged in Britain and the Middle East.

Barrington is now 43, Hunt 37. From 1967 to 1977 they had a tense, arduous, and often exhausting struggle for world supremacy. Their example and competitive rivalry did much to popularise squash during the most revolutionary period of the game's growth. Age and infirmity caught up with each in turn, but they have since regained remarkable levels of fitness and form.

Hunt was the last player to beat Jahangir Khan in the final of the 1981 British Open Championship. In 1982 the Australian retired with what seemed to be a permanently damaged back. But the defeat was not as serious as had been feared. He cannot train as he used to and is

Cannons are silenced

By Colin McQuillan

over the specially imported big guns of Low and Chuan Sport Club adequately illustrated the collective realities of team squash, just as several outstanding individual victories around the country revealed the effects of this new competitive strata may impose upon future tournament play.

Geoff Williams at last collected the scalp of the former national champion Gavin Briers in the Manchester Northern defeat of Nottingham.

TENNIS

Mrs Lloyd has to share record for wins

Palm Beach Gardens (Reuters) - The Women's Tennis Association have announced that they have revised their figures and now regard Chris Lloyd as having won 53 successive matches instead of 56. The decision means that Martina Navratilova equalled Mrs Lloyd's record winning 53 matches in the United States open on September 8.

Until now, the WTA had recognized Mrs Lloyd's streak as encompassing 56 matches, including a walkover. But the WTA official, Peggy Gossett, said that checks of other winning streaks showed walkovers had not been included. "We felt we had to be consistent, or we're discounting Chris's walkover and making the streak 55," she said.

Miss Navratilova had a chance to beat Mrs Lloyd's total last night when she was due to play Melissa Brown of the United States in the second round of the Fort Lauderdale classic.

The American, Mary Joe Fernandez - at 13 the youngest player ever to reach the first round of a professional tournament - lost her match against South Africa's Renee Vys in the Fort Lauderdale classic 6-2, 6-4.

Romania's Iie Nastase, 37, has been omitted from his country's Davis Cup team to play West Germany later this month.

Results, page 23

ICE HOCKEY

Canada win Cup after Sweden's late comeback

Edmonton, Alberta, (AFP) - Canada beat Sweden 6-5 here last night to win the final of the Canada Cup ice hockey tournament.

Revenge was sweet for the Canadians, who defeated the Soviet Union earlier in the tournament - considered the equivalent of a world professional ice hockey championship - and beat the Swedes who had taken the bronze medal from Canada at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics.

Sweden narrowly averted catastrophe, trailing 5-1 after the first period when the Canadians scored four goals in the first seven minutes. The Swedish team came alive in the second, scoring goal after goal to roar of approval from a crowd of over 10,000. But the distance was too great, and the Swedes had to settle for a score of 6-3. They had lost 5-2 in the first of the best-of-three matches on Sunday night.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Derby v Luton (7.30), Luton v Sheffield Wednesday (7.30), Nottingham Forest v Huddersfield (7.30), Sheffield United v Manchester United (7.30), Stoke v Bolton City (7.30). Second division: Blackpool v Wolves (7.30).

OTHER SPORT: RUGBY LEAGUE: Second division: Runcorn v Bradford Bulls (7.30), Rochdale v Wigan (7.30). CRICKET: Essex v Lancashire (1.00). LACROSSE: Women's tournament: Scotland v Wales (United States in Glasgow, 1.00).

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If you wish to apply then write with a full c.v. to:



Liz Marshall,
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HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development Target practice in the office

Going into a new job is a challenging time. It is a time when you will be particularly conscious of the need to "make a success of things" and oblige even more true if the job involves learning new skills or working at a level of seniority you have not yet experienced. But do you know how your performance will be judged?

The need to maintain a competitive edge in a demanding market may have the consequence of making everyone in a company very results-conscious. Targets may be set for everyone, and expressed in very specific terms: in these circumstances there can be no room for doubt as to what is expected of you.

Success or failure will be highly visible and visibly acted upon, with rewards for the good performer and support or discipline (as appropriate) for the poor. Sales and marketing staff are very used to working in this way and expect to receive a salary package which reflects the achievement of goals.

Interviews that can embarrass

If all this sounds rather alien, it is probably because you, like many people, are used to a less demanding environment, perhaps one in which there has been no formal means of determining whether you are deemed to be achieving your objectives or not.

Many people find this perfectly comfortable and would prefer not to face the potential embarrassment of a critical performance interview with

Starting a job can bring unexpected criticism of your performance, writes Rhiannon Chapman

their manager. Managers may find it easier too not to have to make what might amount to quite a personal level of comment on their subordinates' activities.

Undoubtedly one of the central difficulties in performance assessment, is that it is so often thought of as involving a subjective judgement which might not be capable of standing up to challenge. An otherwise amicable working relationship might be destroyed for ever, by the feelings of unfairness and mutual distrust which could arise out of a "bad" interview with your boss.

The only performance assessment systems which stand any real chance of avoiding this problem, are those based on previously agreed targets. The targets could require the achievement of certain projects by a given date, or the reduction of an error rate by 10 per cent, or a turn-around in answering correspondence, say, from a week to three days. Most jobs contain some fairly specific accountability or requirement of performance.

The necessary discipline lies in identifying and agreeing these at the outset, so that everyone knows where

they stand. This enables the performance interview when it comes up to consist of a rational discussion of what has been achieved and what has not, and why. Often the boss will come to realize that some further assistance is required by means of additional resourcing, or perhaps some training.

Unless some such form of systematic assessment exists, you will have a problem knowing whether you are getting it right or not. In some organizations, people work on for years, not realizing that their managers are critical of their output and in consequence are given no opportunity to learn how to put it right.

Motivation of specific goals

There are, too, some people who need the motivation of specified goals and visible reward for effort. Unless the achievers are identified and rewarded and the non-achievers helped to improve their standard of output the whole company will quickly establish a norm of mediocrity, which can be very frustrating for those who feel that special efforts deserve to be recognized.

Before you take on a new job, be sure you know on what basis your performance will be judged: it may not be obvious and it could make the vital difference for you between success and failure.

Marketplace

New reports and studies drawing attention to major skills shortages appear each month. The latest, *Crisis Facing UK Information Technology*, comes from the IT Economic Development Committee.

Although primarily concerned with the lack of investment in research and inadequate financing for fast-growing, medium-sized companies, it states: "One of the most critical issues of all is the availability of suitable skilled manpower. Shortages occur at all skill levels, but are probably worst in software engineering, systems integration and advanced production technology."

It adds later: "Too often contracts are being lost and employment opportunities for the less skilled are being lost with them, because of the lack of a few key engineers. Competition for these people is increasing from users and from overseas companies establishing in the UK."

"The shortage is also felt in the education and training sector, which has lost many of its best people to industry."

The increasing demand for skills is reflected in the continuing growth in volume of recruitment advertising. In August the volume carried in the seven "quality" national newspapers was up by almost 32 per cent on last

year. (The Times volume was up 41 per cent). The five "popular" national daily newspapers also showed marked growth - up 26 per cent on last year.

The latest HAY-MSL Index covering the second quarter of the year also shows that the advertised demand for executives in the UK was higher during the first half of the year than in any comparable period since 1966.

Compared with the second quarter of last year, the index shows that demand for computer staff was up 59 per cent this year. The demand for production staff was up 22 per cent, accountants 11 per cent and research, development and design 10 per cent. The only category monitored by the index which failed to show any growth was that for general managers. However, a decreasing proportion of these posts is advertised as increasing use is made of search consultants.

The executive market is not necessarily representative of the recruitment market as a whole. For instance the average number of vacancies, seasonally adjusted, flowing into Job Centres during the initial three months ending in August was 295,000. Although that was the largest number since February 1980, it was less than 4 per cent up on the same period last year.

In the past, the flow into Job Centres has been taken as a useful overall indicator of recruitment activity. The Department of Employment has claimed for some time that about a third of vacancies are notified to Job Centres.

This suggests that there are now about 600,000 vacancies arising each month. However, there is evidence that a decreasing proportion of vacancies is being notified to Job Centres, and that to treble their figures now is to understate the overall market.

Evidence for this change comes from the comparison of Job Centre vacancy flows and expenditure on recruitment advertising. In the first quarter of 1984, Job Centre vacancies were up 7.6 per cent on the equivalent period of 1983. According to the Advertising Association, recruitment advertising in the national press over the same period increased 28 per cent, the regional press increased 51 per cent and "free sheet" newspapers were up 75 per cent. Even the most pessimistic estimates suggest that more than 7,000,000 vacancies will have arisen this year, and the number may be nearer 9,000,000.

Philip Schofield

General Appointments

TAXATION ASSISTANT

Friendly Chartered Accountants situated in Bromley, Kent, require an experienced Taxation Assistant. Thorough knowledge of schedules D&E are essential and knowledge of Lloyd's underwriting should be of assistance. We offer modern offices with a pleasant working environment and, best of all, no share commitment. Hours and salary negotiable. Apply in writing with CV to The Staff Office, Havens Hill, Gables & Company, Blandford House, 44 Masons Hill, Bromley, Kent.

ENTERPRISING, EDUCATED women for mail order sales. No experience necessary. Salary negotiable. Box 245, The Times.

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

NEGOTIATOR Deal with professional people by working for a specialist consultancy who have brand new offices in Central Winchester. The firm is part of a long established successful group and has modern systems including comprehensive computer support. A well organized self starter unafraid of responsibility is sought to satisfy the staffing needs of a demanding professional sector of the service industry.

WINCHESTER Salary arrangements are for negotiation but will be made advantageous for a young career minded person who need not have employment agency experience.

Apply, preferably in first instance by telephone, or in writing quoting ref: R04/PF to Palmer Fox & Partners, Castle Chambers, 5 Upper High Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 8UT. Telephone: 01452 4656.

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Are you ready for the big league?

NEC is 74,000 people making 15,000 products for 140 countries with 70 plants

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NEC is well established in the UK and our next planned expansion is further investment in the telecommunications sector

NEC Business Systems (Europe) Ltd. wishes to appoint a Technical Manager for their Telecoms, Radio and Broadcast Division.

The person sought for this major Engineering Management opportunity must be capable of dealing with related Communications Technologies, PBX 4th Generation, full alpha numeric paging and satellite receive only T.V. Systems.

The position will involve travel to Japan, support of the United Kingdom and European markets and customers, together with setting up a full Engineering/Applications capability in the United Kingdom.

The salary package will be tailored to attract the best talent available and there are major company benefits.

If you feel your career matches the opportunities of working for a company committed to Technical and Business success, please write to Ian Toombs, Head of Personnel, NEC Business Systems (Europe) Ltd., NEC House, 164/166 Drummond Street, London NW1 3HP or telephone for a discussion with our consultant Dr. S.A. Aherm daytime on 0483 502556 or evenings and weekends Redhill 54520.

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We are now seeking a manager to lead this successful business into its second decade and exploit its fullest potential.

Candidates are likely to be:

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- Experienced in directing technical development and running a profit centre.
- Chartered Mech/Chem Engineers aged 35-45.
- Working in food processing or possibly biotech industries.

Please write outlining how you meet these criteria and enclosing a c.v. to:

The Managing Director,
Paterson Candy International
Limited,
Laverstock Mill,
Whitchurch,
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RG28 7NR



Senior Banking Appointment

City of London

The Co-operative Bank plc, amongst the most successful and dynamic of U.K. banking organisations, needs to secure the future forward thrust of its development in the City of London by the appointment of a **GENERAL MANAGER**, to take over responsibility from Mr. D. C. Maxey who retires in January 1985.

The job holder will report directly to the Chief General Manager of the Bank and will be responsible for the control and expansion of City based operations, including treasury, dealing, international and wholesale banking functions.

Based at the Bank's Cornhill office, this appointment carries the prospect of Board appointment in due course and the successful candidate will join the established senior management team driving this expanding Clearing Bank.

There is an appropriate Clearing Bank reward package that will match the major responsibilities attached to this appointment.

Candidates, who will already have a significant track record in the Banking sector should, in the first instance, apply confidentially to:

Mr. L. Lee, Chief General Manager, Co-operative Bank plc,
P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP.

We are an equal opportunity employer.



General Manager

required to take control of retail business with substantial cash turnover.

The right man or woman will have a strong marketing background, an eye for detail, and be able to recruit, train and motivate staff.

Full profit responsibility is to be assumed and an immediate start is envisaged.

An unusually attractive package is available to the person proving successful in the position.

Reply to PQ Box 0131 W The Times.

TEMP CONTROLLER

Central London

A highly successful privately owned recruitment agency, with a thriving Temporary section, requires a self motivated Controller to take charge of this division.

The applicant, male or female, should have two to three years' previous experience at the same level.

A very high basic salary is offered. A total package of between £15,000 and £18,000 is envisaged.

Please Contact Valerie Whitson on 01-486 9690 (office hours) 01-202 7030 (after 5.30 pm)

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Required by large international organisation based in Central London. You would be responsible for the recruitment of all secretarial and administrative support staff associated administrative functions with an assistant to help.

This vacancy will appeal to career orientated personnel people with previous interviewing experience gained in either a company or an agency. Age 24-32.

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Stephen A. Griffin Esq. on 01-434 4225

WELL ESTABLISHED publisher seeks to join their editorial department an experienced, energetic, and creative person to be responsible for the content of the magazine and to ensure that the magazine is published on time and to the highest standards. Apply in writing with full CV to: Editor, The Times, 1, The Times Building, London, EC4A 3DF.

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We are the European subsidiary of a multinational corporation engaged in the manufacture and sale of chemicals to the water, food, petrochemical and environmental protection industries. To maintain our growth, we require a first-class Sales Engineer, having some qualifications in chemistry, chemical engineering or similar discipline. Candidates should have relevant commercial experience either in specialised chemicals or sales of systems to process industries. The position is based near Manchester and extensive travel throughout the UK is expected, together with several trips abroad each year.

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Write in confidence to: Mrs E Buckley, Personnel Department, 113 High Street, Uppermill, Oldham, OL3 6BD.

ART GALLERY

I have a vacancy for a full time Assistant to work for me in my Art Gallery in St James's which has been established for 20 years. You should be of a happy, lively and level disposition with an ability to deal with people both personally and on the telephone in a friendly, tactful and efficient manner. You should be able to work on your own with responsibility and initiative. Much of the work involved is of a routine nature but it is very important to the running of the business with which you will be associated. You should have 'A' level English and another subject at C grade + or at international baccalaureate level and be able to take dictation and to type accurately at reasonable speed. Previous full time office or similar experience is necessary. You should be aged between 25-34. Salary £5,500. Hand written replies with typed CV to: Box 2240 T, The Times. All letters answered

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We are a successful manufacturer and distributor of a full range of data communications equipment. Due to our growth in 1984, and the implementation of a major expansion programme, we have an immediate requirement for an experienced Sales Manager to head up and expand our sales activities. The successful applicant will, through his own initiative and determination, have the ideal opportunity to capitalise on the overwhelming response to our unique range of products and systems.

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Interlekt Electronics Limited

Interlekt House, 24 Portman Road, Reading, RG3 1LU

PIGMENT CHEMISTS

Sun Chemical Corporation, the leading manufacturer of organic pigments in the USA, continues to expand. Posts are available in research, process development and production, as well as in the investigation of unusual methods of presentation for application and use.

Applications are invited from managerial staff and chemists experienced in the appropriate fields of organic pigment, or dyestuff, technology.

Replies, giving full details of qualifications, training and experience should be sent to Sun Chemical Corporation, 540 Barry Road, Rochdale, Lancs OL1 4DQ.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 *Ceejax AM.*
6.30 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Blythe and Selma Scott. News from Debbie Bird. 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15. Programme closes with a 15-minute review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; horoscopes at 8.30; medical advice and cookery hints between 8.30 and 9.00.

9.00 *MacLeod's America.* The late Donny MacLeod ventures deep into the Louisiana swamps to discover Cajun Country.

9.15 *Liberal Party Assembly 1984.* Debates on higher education and drug abuse are scheduled for today. 10.30 *Play School*, presented by Carol Chell (r). 10.50 *Liberal Party Assembly* continues with further coverage of the morning's proceedings at Bournemouth.

12.30 *News After Moon* with Moira Stuart and Frances Coverdale. The regional prospects come 1.55. 2.55 *Seacoast.* The weather news (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.

1.00 *Band and One* with guests Bertice Reading and Andy Borge. 1.45 *Postman Pat* (r).

2.00 *Liberal Party Assembly 1984.* Further coverage of the day's debates which includes one on defence. 3.45 *Regional news* (not on TV).

3.50 *Play School*, presented by Chloë Ashcroft. 4.10 *Mighty Mouse* (r). 4.15 *Puzzle Trail.* More clues for Daryl and Eileen in their search for the hidden treasure.

4.30 *Hubberty Fenn and his Friends.* The penultimate episode in the serial based on the stories of Mark Twain (r). 4.55 *John Craven's Newsround.*

5.00 *Blue Peter.* Simon Groom and Janet Ellis at the Masei Mare National Game Reserve with the Senior Ranger, Major Henry Kipunde (Ceejax titles). 5.30 *Henry's Cat* 5.35 *Grange Hill.* Episodes four of the drama about the pupils and staff of a secondary school (r) (Ceejax titles). 5.55 *Weather.*

6.00 *News 6.30 London Plus.*

6.55 *Tomorrow's World.* The first of a new series includes a report on why the Norwegians are making artificial caves in their mountains.

7.20 *The Pope* introduced by Steve Wright and Andy Borge.

8.00 *The Magnificent Evans.* Comedy series starring Ronnie Barker as a lecherous photographer, this week, drumming up trade from the tourists by organising a boar hunt followed by a Medieval banquet (Ceejax titles).

8.30 *The Hot Sex Show.* Song, dance and comedy starring Wayne Sleep and Bonnie Langford with guests-Fiona Hughes and Michael Praed.

9.00 *News with Julia Somerville.*

9.25 *Bird of Prey 2.* Part three of the series starring Richard Griffiths as the sinister Le Pouvrier, computer crime syndicate (Ceejax titles).

10.15 *Heart of the Matter.* David Woodhouse develops the effectiveness of sending food as the answer to hunger abroad.

10.30 *Young Andy's Party.* Members-Frank Fancie, Eric Woodburn, Brian Barnes and Andy Borge.

11.20 *Out of the Underworld.* The first of six programmes about living in the depression. Presented by Fay Weldon and Simon Hoggart with Miriam Margulies.

11.55 *News 11.55 and 12.00* with the weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and John Stapleton. News from Gordon Brown. 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00 and 10.30; guest: Julia McKenzie from 6.45; exiles: 6.45 and 8.20; reviews of the films Company of Wolves and Strangers With Candy at 6.54; P4-F adverts at 8.45; 9.55: Full advice for pregnant toppers at 9.06.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines 9.30 For Schools Stimulating interest in the English language 9.48 Basic maths 10.06 Living in a town. 10.23 Music machines. 10.46 Electrostatics for O-level CSE students. 11.02 Cultural minorities in Britain. 11.19 Election school. 11.30 Full employment: where did it go?

12.00 Haggerty Haggerty, George Cole with another tale of the trenchy witch. 12.10 Mooncans and with guest Paul McCartney. 12.30 The Sullivan News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 Falcon Crest. Tarry Angelis confronted by an irate lawyer about her past as a prostitute.

2.30 Daytime. Topical discussion chaired by Sarah Kennedy. 3.00 Take the High Road. Drama set on a Scottish highland estate. 3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.35 Some art matters.

4.00 Haggerty Haggerty. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 Tawser. 4.20 Vide and Chips. The last programme of the series is due to be sent to one of the largest computers in Europe, at the Bracknell Weather Centre.

4.45 Starstrider. The final programme of the school quiz series. News headlines from Hatched Wood, London; Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire and Carlisle, Cumbria (Oracle titles page 17). 5.15 Blockbusters.

5.45 News. 5.00 Thames news.

6.30 Thames Sport presented by Shirley Stanger. News from last night's European football action involving London clubs plus the best of the action from last night's boxing bill at the Britannia Leisure Centre, St Albans.

7.00 The Krypton Factor. Three fit men and a fit woman take part in a test of stamina and brain power. Presented by Gordon Burns.

7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Duty Free. Comedy series about two couples on a package holiday in Spain.

8.30 The Heritage series set in a luxury San Francisco hotel where, this week, the manager's assistant falls for guest with amnesia and who has been involved in a jewel robbery.

9.30 The Eye in Jails for Sale report. Peter Gill examines how the United States authorities are privatising jails. Open prisons, juvenile prisons and county jails are being sold off to private businessmen. Could it happen in this country?

10.00 News followed by Thames news headlines.

10.30 Hill Street Blues. A dreadful day for Furillo culminates in a being relieved of his command by Mayor. Starring Daniel J. Travanti.

11.30 Thames News by-election Special presented by Andrew Gardner and Michael Barratt. The results from the mir-electon as they become known are set up as a discussion on the issues involved and the results of a Thames news opinion poll measuring the missing Conservative vote.

12.25 Night Thoughts from Moshe

TV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines 9.30
For Schools Stimulating interest in the English language. 9.48 Basic maths. 10.06 Living in the town. 10.23 Music machines. 10.49 Electroacoustics for O-level CSE students. 1.02 Colour and light. 1.09 minnows in Britain. 11.19 Exploring school. 11.38 Full employment: where did it go? 12.00 **Haggerty Haggerty**. George Cole with another tale of the fictional esch. 12.20 **McMonnies** and Co with guest Pat Coombs. 12.30 **The Sullivans**.

1.00 News. 1.20 **Thames news**. 1.50 **Falcon Crest**. Terry is kidnapped. 2.05 **Angels** as her pest as a prostitute. 2.30 **Daytime**. Topical discussion chaired by Sarah Kennedy. 3.00 **Take the High Road**. Drama set on a Scottish highland estate. 3.35 **Thames news** headlines. 3.35 **Sons and Daughters**.

4.00 **Haggerty Haggerty**. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 **Twister**. 4.20 **Vide** and more. The last programme of the series includes a visit to one of the largest computers in Europe, at the Bracknell Weir Waterworks.

4.45 **Starstride**. The final programme of the school quiz series features pupils from Hatcham Wood, London; Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire and Carlisle, Cumbria (Oracle titles page 170). 5.15 **Blockbusters**.

5.45 News. 5.00 **Thames news**.

6.30 **Thames Sport** presented by Steve Rider. Highlights from last night's European football action involving London clubs plus the best of the action from last night's boxing bill at the Britannia Leisure Centre, Shoreditch.

7.00 **The Krypton Factor**. Three fit men and a fit woman take part in a stamina and brain power. Presented by Gordon Burns.

7.30 **Coronation Street**.

8.00 **Duty Free**. Comedy series about two couples on a package holiday in Spain.

8.30 **Hotel**. Drama series set in a luxury San Francisco hotel which this week the manager's assistant falls for guest with arms and who has been involved in a jewel robbery.

9.30 **TV Eye**. In **Jails for Sale** reporter Peter Cusick examines how the United States authorities are privatising jails. Open prisons, juvenile prisons and county jails are being snapped up by businessmen. What it happen in this country?

10.00 News followed by Thames news headlines.

10.30 **Hit Street Blues**. A dreadful day for Furillo culminates in being relayed by his daughter by the mayor. Starring Daniel J. Travolta.

11.30 **Thames News By-election** Special Presented by Andrew Gardner and Michael Barratt. The results from the minilection as they become known, with a discussion on the issues involved and the results of a **Thames news** opinion poll measuring the missing Conservative vote.

12.25 **Night Thoughts** from Moshe

● **LIFE OF AN ORCHESTRA** (BBC 2, 9.25pm) is a public relations

dream come true: a four-part series devoted entirely to the men and women who play in, and help to organize the activities of the London Symphony Orchestra. Proceeding from the most formal to the most informal, the series begins with an informal approach to her subject, and an enjoyable informality is exactly what she has achieved. The films are reverential only when they have to be (i.e., when the customers fill the hall, expect to get their money's worth - and invariably get it). Tonight's film, for example, is concerned more with the flesh-and-blood behind the Barlow and the Haydn than with how the performances of the *Fantastic Symphony* are put together. The concert is magnificent, and I admit that the new result might well be anathema to anyone who prefers to think of an



A scene from *Almonds and Raisins*
(Channel 4, 9.30 pm)

CHOICE

orchestra as a complete entity rather than as a collection of individuals. The CSO is fortunate in having so many ways in its ranks, including the brass player who thinks God did not intend anyone to spend his life blowing raspberries under a piece of tubing; the player (celestial harpist in the making?) who recalls how, when the orchestra fell into the hands of a conductor who was long past his prime, the players would whisper among themselves: "Is he dead yet?" and then, after a long pause, would wait some concerts generate a kind of electricity, others just help to pay the mortgage.

● **ALMONDS AND RAISINS**
(Channel 4, \$3.90pm) is an unforgettable film made up from

CHANNEL 4

9.30 Liberal Party Assembly '84. Reporting from Bournemouth are Lew Gardener and Brian Shellcross. The morning sessions included a debate on drug abuse. Ends at 12.45.

2.00 Liberal Party Assembly '84. Further coverage of the proceedings which are scheduled to include debates on violence and disarmament.

6.25 Film: Blockade' (1938) starring Henry Fonda and Madeleine Carroll. Spanish Civil War drama with Fonda as a young peasant and Carroll as the daughter who has been engaged in espionage for the opposing side. Before the hostilities begin the young man and the girl are attracted to each other but as the war has begun he has to arrest the girl as an accomplice to her father who has been shot as a spy. Directed by William Dieterle.

7.00 Channel Four News with Trevor Macdonald includes a report from Verdun, the First World War battlefield that is the site of a historical meeting between President Mitterand of France and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany.

7.50 Comment from Dame Albertine Winner, chairman of St Christopher's Hospice.

8.00 Scotland's Story. The fourth programme in the series covers the period from 1326 to 1513 and includes a dramatized episode involving John Major (played by Russel Hunter), a supporter of Anglo-Scottish accord and an anti-Highlander. Other contributions come from the Dukes of Norfolk whose ancestor, Thomas Howard, is the English victor at Flodden. William Wallace, Henry Lord Crawford, Lord Perth; and Sir Fitz Macleod.

8.30 Looks Like This. Denis Norden and his guests, Eamonn Andrews, Florence Desmond and Deryck Guyler reminisce over clips of the Thirties and Forties. Among those starring in the extracts are Flanagan and Allen, Lucille Ball and Tommy Handley.

9.15 What the Papers Say. Anthony Howard, deputy editor of the Observer, reviews press coverage of the past week's news.

9.30 Film: Almonds and Raisins (1984). A documentary about some of the 300 Yiddish talking films that were made in the 15 years following The Jazz Singer. The films were made not only as an entertainment for the poor immigrants to New York's East Side but also to remind them of their roots and of their aspirations. Directed by Russ Karel. (See Choice).

11.10 The Blood of the British. The second programme of the series in which the author of the Hills traces the ancestry of the British people through archaeological remains.

11.40 Little Armandino. Comedy series about twin brothers who start a seedy doctors club.

Radio 4

Programmes on long waves, 1 denotes
starters on VHF

6.00 News Briefing: Weather
6.15 Morning News, 5.55 Shipping,
5.30 News, 5.45 Prayer, 6.55, 7.55
Weather, 7.20, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45
News, 8.55, 9.25 Sports, 7.45
Thought for the Day.
8.45 Beltime and True by Desmond
Lloyd, about 100 pages (4).
The reader is Norman Jones.
8.57 Rollercoaster from Bristol. Susan
Lambert and Eric Smeaton host
today's programme, incl. 8.57
Weather, 9.50, 10.00, 11.00
News, 10.30 Morning Show
9.15, 10.15, 11.15, 12.15
Sally by Kate Milner.
The reader is Bernard Cribbins.
10.45 Act of Worship.
12.00 News.
12.05 The Book of Job. The story
of Andy Kart, a remarkable
waiter (1).
12.27 The Travelling Show with
Christine Mearns, John
Carter, Basil Bootwood and
Hazel Evans, 12.55 Weather
incl. 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45
News, 1.00, 1.15 Shipping.
2.00 News: Woman's Hour. Includes
interviews with women who have
been vicaragmas, and a feature
the twelfth instalment of The Fall
of the Sparrow, read by John
Wheeler.
3.00 Afternoon Theatre: Tom, by
Michael Wall, With Louis
Monahan. The story of a black cat
who goes on a pair with a boy having
an affair with his master.
4.00 News: Inquire Within With Neil
Laundy.
4.10 A Good Read. Paperbackbacks
selected by Arthur Marshall and
Steve Rade, Teresa McCannagh
is the chairty.
4.30 Story Time: "Before the
Changing Wind". Five
autobiographical stories by
Jean Martin. 4.45 Newbury City.
Read by James Martin.
5.00 PkF: News, 5.50 Shipping, 5.55
Weather, Travel.
5.57 The O'Clock News: Financial
Report.
6.30 Brain of Britain (27).
Medians and the News.
6.45 End semi-finals (1).

Peter Davalle

forbidden films, the kind of movie that blows the dust off projects labelled cinema archeology and reveals them to be remarkable human documents. Director Russ Karel has given permanence to a temporary phenomenon, the flowering of Yiddish cinema in the United States between 1927 and 1939. In mastery fashion, combining the skills of film-maker and social historian, he has fused together sequences from the five Yiddish movies still existing in their entirety and 35 others that are in fragmented state. Jewish immigrant nostalgia and the attempt to achieve a renewal of identity in a land of Gentiles are potent elements in these films, and the raw tears and outcries, family flows in, and out of, each other.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: part one.
Georg Bohm's Overture in D;
Copland's Concerto for Clarinet.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

ANGELA As London except: 1.20pm-2.30pm. 2.30-3.30
Shillingbury Tapes. 6.00 About Angela.
6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-8.00 Knight Rider.
8.00-8.30 The 101. 8.35-9.00 The 101.
9.00-9.30 The 101. 9.30-10.00 The 101.
11.00 Short Story. 11.30 Star Parade.
12.30pm My Name is Michelle.
Closedown.

CHANNEL 4 As London except:
1.20pm News. 1.30
Jonika Loves Chaz. 2.15-2.45 Beverly
Hillbillies. 3.00 Channel 4. 3.30
Crossroads. 7.00-8.00 Knight Rider.
8.00-8.30 The 101. 8.35-9.00 The 101.
9.00-9.30 The 101. 9.30-10.00 The 101.
11.00 Short Story. 11.30 Star Parade.
12.30pm Closedown.

GRANADA As London except:
1.20pm Granada
Reports. 1.30-2.30 Devlin Connection.
3.25 News. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors.
6.00 Our Flight. 6.30
Crossroads. 6.30 Granada Reports.
7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30 Knight
Rider. 8.00-8.30 Fry. 8.35-9.00 Gaffer.
11.30 Star Parade. 12.30pm Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 1.20pm
Lunchtime.
Shillingbury Tapes. 3.30-4.00 Hands.
8.00 Good Evening Ulster. 8.25 Police
Six. 8.30-9.00 The 101. 9.00-9.30
Star Parade. 9.30-10.00 The 101.
10.00-10.30 The 101. 10.30-11.00
The 101. 11.00-11.30 The 101.
11.30 Star Parade. 12.30pm Closedown.

Radio 2

VHF only - Open University:
6.15am Control of Education.
6.35-6.55 Borghini's Riposo
11.20pm Rights and Wrongs of
Modern Art (1). 11.40-12.00am
Economic Dependency.

Radio

News on the half hour from 6.30 am until 7.30 pm and at 12 midnight. Medium wave, therefore, a VHF station is required. Adrian John including 5.15 Action Special 7.00 Mike Radco including 7.15, 8.15 Action Special 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Andy Peebles including 12.15 Action Special. 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00pm Steve Wright including 4.15 Action Special. 4.30 Bruno Brookes including 5.15 Action Special. 5.30 Newsbeat. 7.00 Janice Long including 7.15 Action Special. 8.00-10.00-12.00am John Peel, VHF Radios with 2, 4, 2, 4, 00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

[illegible]

c VHF -90-92.5: Radio 4

1458KHz/200m. VHF 54.5, 40W

London except 1.20pm

2.30 Falcon Crest. 3.00 Afternoon Club.
3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 8.00 Coast to
Coast. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00
Emmerdale Farm. 7.30 Knight Rider.
8.30 Duty Free. 9.00-9.30 Gaffer. 10.30
Yellow Rose. 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar
Wallace. 12.30am Company.

London except: 1.90pm

News. 1.30 Joanie Loves Chachi. 2.00-2.30 University Challenge. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 That's My Dog. 7.00-8.00 Knight Rider. 8.30-9.30 Magnum. 11.30 Clive James Meets Roman Polanski. 12.30am Closedown.

AL As London except:
12.25pm Folk Tales.

12.40-1.00 Contact. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.30 Champion. 6.00 Crossroads. 8.25 News. 7.00 Drummer's Farm. 7.30 Knight Rider. 8.30 Duty Free. 9.00-9.30 Gafer. 10.30 Eco. 11.00 Protectors. 11.30 Fight Night. 12.30am Closedown.

HIRE As London except:
12.30pm-1.00
20 Hours 1.20-2.20 | one

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat.

T GALLERIES

[illegible]

12.30
H. LIBRARY, CI Russell

[illegible]

Entertainments

[illegible]

[illegible]